Taiwan, S'pore issue travel ban but WHO backs RP

Story below, Col. 4

Pinay held in Denmark with 3 kgs of cocaine

COPENHAGEN, Denmark—A 27-year-old woman from the Philippines was jailed Thursday after customs officers found three kilograms of cocaine in her luggage.

The Filipina, pulled aside by customs officers during a random check, was arrested Wednesday at Copenhagen's in-

PINAY/A16

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Meralco refund starts this month, says Palace

By Carlito Pablo and Abigail L. Ho

SMALL power users can expect refund checks from the Manila Electric Co. to be included in their billing statements this month, according to President Macapagal-Arroyo's chief of staff.

Rigoberto Tiglao made this statement yesterday, right after the President "urged"

MERALCO/A17

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Saturday, May 10, 2003 ★★★ 86 pages / 12 sections / vol. 18 / no. 151 P15 website: www.inq7.net

Bush to host rare state dinner for GMA

"THANK you to the government of the Philippines, to President Macapagal and to the people of the Philippines ... for being such a good and reliable ally to the United States," the White House spokesperson cited the reasons for the honor that awaits GMA.

PDI PHOTO FILE

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush plans a rare state dinner on May 19 for President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, the White House said on Thursday.

Ms Macapagal has proven to be one of Bush's closest allies. She was one of the first foreign leaders to sign up for his global campaign against terrorism launched after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks and also backed the US-led war in Iraq.

Bush will hold talks with Ms Macapagal at the White House and honor her with a rare state dinner the same evening, only the third of his White House tenure. Previously, he had such pomp-and-circumstance events for the leaders of Mexico and Poland.

Former President Bill Clinton had 27 state dinners during his eight years in office. Bush's father held 17 in his one term.

Ms Macapagal was a vocal supporter of the war in Iraq, and the state visit is Bush's latest salute to a partner who stood with him despite sharp opposition at home. She and Bush have also shared a sense of urgency about fighting terrorism: Muslim insurgents, including the Abu Sayyaf Group strongly believed to be linked to al-Qaida, have battled the government in the Philippines for decades.

White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer cited that help as the reason the Philippines won the rare honor from the Bush White House.

Fleischer later described the visit as a "thank you to the government of the Philippines, to President Macapagal and to the people of the Philippines for their stalwart efforts in fighting the war on terror, for being such a good and reliable ally to the United States."

"The Philippines is an area of the world that has not received much notice because much no-

BUSH/A16

Piatco now ready to talk

Palace's sudden proposal accepted for out-of-court settlement

By Michael Lim Ubac

AN AMICABLE settlement over the disputed Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport appeared possible with the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco) yesterday deciding to accept Malacañang's offer for out-of-court talks.

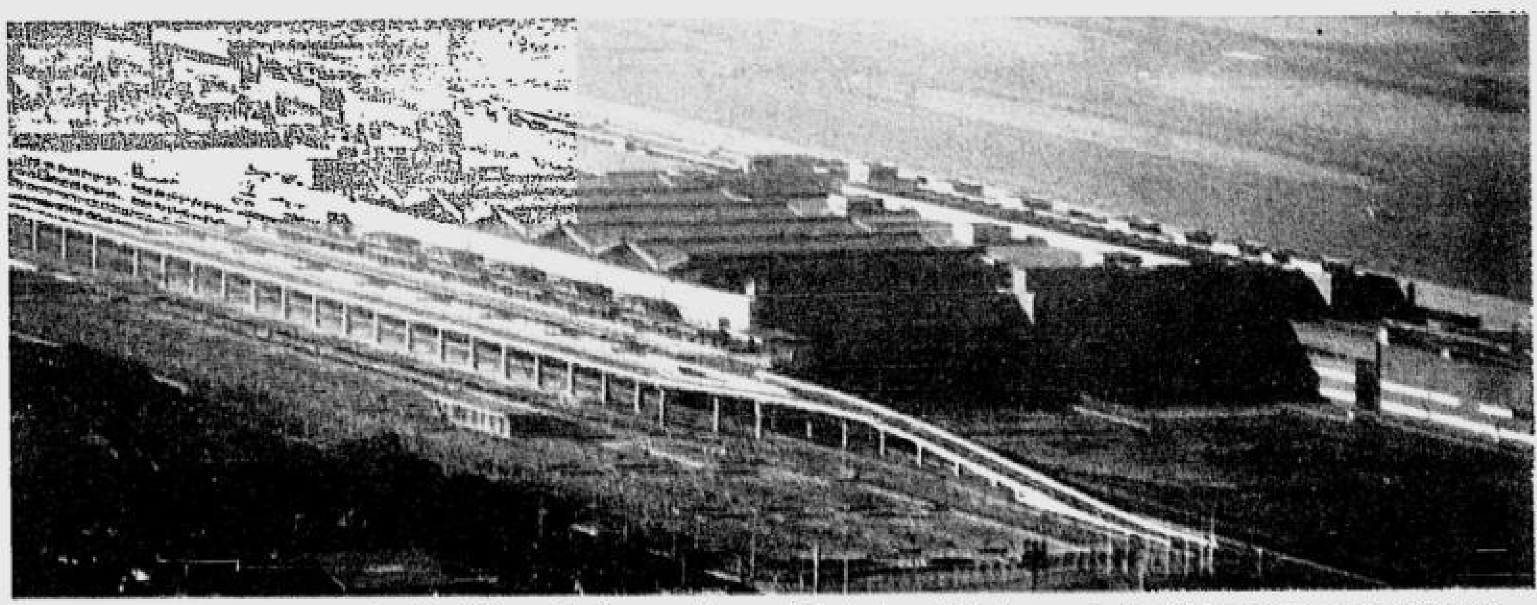
In a statement, Piatco president Vic Cheng Yong agreed to the Palace's sudden proposal for the concerned parties to submit to a "process" that would hew to "the principles of justice and fair play." He said Piatco had been requesting this "since July last year," when President Macapagal-Arroyo formed a seven-member committee led by then National Economic and Development Authority director general Dante Canlas.

Cheng pointed out that Piatco, a consortium that includes German airport operator Fraport AG, had "advocated an amicable resolution" to the issues affecting Naia Terminal 3.

He said he hoped that the proposed talks would result in "a real settlement."

He expressed optimism that the efforts of the Macapagal administration and the consortium would end "the mudslinging and

PIATCO/A17


ROGER MARGALLO

NAIA Terminal 3: Either the country's pride with its world-class amenities or a "living testament" to the complexities of doing business in the Philippines.

'I'm not pointing an accusing finger at anyone'

PHOTO/IN THE PRESENCE OF MY ENEMIES

"... IN THE LAND Martin and I loved," Gracia Burnham dressed up like a Kankaney tribal woman with son Jeffrey when the missionary couple were just starting their divine mission in the vineyards of the Lord.

By Michael Lim Ubac

I WILL let my book speak for itself.

Thus said Gracia Burnham as she stood by her book, "In the Presence of My Enemies," which recalled her captivity for 377 days in the hands of the Abu Sayyaf Group.

But at the same time, her statement circumvented the cause of the furor stirred by her book—that some military elements had colluded with her captors.

"If there was collusion between the military and the Abu Sayyaf, God is the righteous judge and someday that will be made right," said Burnham in a statement issued by the US Embassy in Manila yesterday.

In her statement, Gracia stressed that she was "not pointing an accusing finger at anyone, and that she was just "relating what I was told by the Abu Sayyaf."

The statement also clarified that the "bad guys" during their ordeal in the jungles were the Abu Sayyaf, and that many Filipino soldiers had died as they attempted to save her and her husband.

Gracia was rescued last June but her husband Martin and another hostage Edilborah

I'M NOT/A17

MILF gives refuge to Abus

By John Nery

Editors' Note: Gracia Burnham's "In the Presence of My Enemies" answers many questions and confirms old answers about the Abu Sayyaf kidnapping spree, but it also creates new puzzles. The INQUIRER, which obtained one of the first copies of the book, relates some of the highlights.

(Second of three parts)

LATE in July 2001, about two months after the Abu Sayyaf raided the Dos Palmas resort, the hostages and their abductors found themselves guests of another fugitive group—the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

"To reach this camp, which was along a beautiful river, we had to descend a steep cliff. This was the toughest terrain we had dealt with yet," Gracia Burnham writes in "In the Presence of My Enemies," the searing, finally serene account of her 377 days in captivity.

The camp on Basilan island "belonged to the MILF," Gracia says. And for the next few weeks, it was home to the ragged group of captors and captives. Soon after arriving at the site, the

MILF/A17

Why there's no court martial yet: Lack of evidence

By Martin P. Marfil, *in Manila*
and Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

INSUFFICIENT evidence was the reason cited by the Armed Forces' Inspector General to explain why no action has been taken on the recommended court martial for three officers implicated in the botched capture of Abu Sayyaf bandits in Lamitan, Basilan, in June 2001.

"Per our evaluation, the evidence gathered is not yet sufficient to convene the court martial," Rear Adm. Edgardo Israel said yesterday. "So what we did was to direct the officers, the personnel involved in this case, to report to [general headquarters] for the taking of sworn statements, testimonials and evidence."

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes has ordered Israel to act on the recommendation of the Senate committee on national defense to convene a court martial to investigate Maj. Gen. Romeo Dominguez, Col. Juvenal Narcise and Maj. Eliseo Campued for collusion with the Abu Sayyaf.

WHY THERE'S/A17

SARS scare takes toll on Filipinos in Italy

By Vic V. Vizcocho Jr.
Contributor

ROME, Italy—A young Filipino was admitted to the Sacco Hospital in Milan on Friday on suspicion of having contracted the deadly Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) virus.

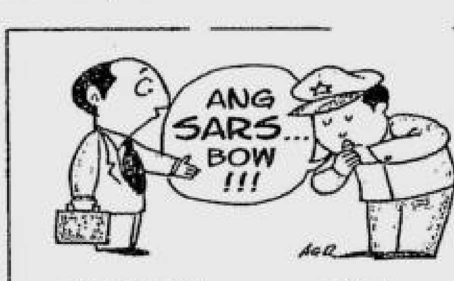
This development has not helped the plight of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) here in trying to overcome the stereotyping of Asians as SARS virus carriers.

An advisory from Italian health officials against OFWs going home to the Philippines stands, even as official records list only three confirmed Philippine SARS cases.

An estimated 150,000 OFWs are in Italy, the bulk of whom are in Rome and Milan.

"These days," says Edgardo Bonzon, who has been here since 1988, "you notice how people tend to withdraw from you, espe-

SARS SCARE/A6



SARS forces China to bow to tradition

BEIJING—After being rejected for being a hated symbol of China's imperial past, the bow is making a comeback.

It isn't just any style of bow the party is reviving. The official Xinhua News Agency, outlining the new etiquette, described a greeting used by Confucian gentlemen,

SARS FORCES/A6

Taiwan, S'pore issue travel advisories vs RP

By Blanche Rivera, TJ Burgonio and Michael Ubac

SUDDENLY, everybody seems to be ganging up on the Philippines.

Taiwan has imposed a ban on visitors from the country. Kuwait, Lebanon and the United Arab Emirates have barred the entry of overseas Filipino workers. Singapore has advised its citizens against travelling to the country.

Earlier yesterday, 82 passengers bound for Taipei, most of them Filipinos, were barred by Taiwan's China Airlines (CAL) and Eva Air from checking in at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport after they failed to show a boarding permit from the Taiwan Economic and Cultural Office (Teco) in Manila.

All these precautions against the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) were imposed by those countries because the Philippines has 10 SARS cases, including two deaths.

But the country found an ally in the World Health Organization Western Pacific Region Office

TAIWAN/A6

Countdown for Justice

WAPILLE

IT IS exactly 362 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapille, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2003

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/05/10/03

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Dureza quits as peace panel chief

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan, *in Manila,*
and Joselle R. Badilla, *PDI Mindanao Bureau*

PRESIDENTIAL Assistant for Mindanao Jesus Dureza resigned yesterday as chair of the government peace panel negotiating with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Dureza cited the current status of the talks with the MILF which he described as "floundering" and President Macapagal-Arroyo's directive to fast-track the development of Mindanao. Dureza is also known as the "Mindanao czar."

"I am of the view that I can give my best if I am relieved of my task as chairman of the peace panel and take full charge of your development thrust in Mindanao," Dureza told the President in his five-paragraph resignation letter, a copy of which was obtained by the INQUIRER.

Presidential chief of staff Rigoberto Tiglao, however, said Dureza resigned as chief peace negotiator because President Macapagal had asked him to.

At a news briefing called by Ms Macapagal, Tiglao said, "The President would want him to focus on (his role) as the Cabinet official primarily responsible for Mindanao."

The President did not entertain questions about Dureza at the briefing, except to say that she had accepted his resignation.

She said she wanted Dureza to concentrate on his job as "Mindanao czar."

After the President left, Tiglao told reporters Dureza's resignation was a mere formality since "there already had been an agreement between the President and Dureza for him to withdraw" from the peace panel.

Asked if the resignation was the President's idea and not Dureza's, Tiglao said, "I'm not sure who (initiated the discussion), but I guess that wasn't that important."

No rush

The President said she was not in any rush to pick Dureza's replacement.

"Since there will be no exploratory peace talks in Malaysia, we don't have to rush to look for Jess' replacement. But we have to rush in giving him a very clear role as Mindanao czar," she said.

President Macapagal on Tuesday called off a series of preliminary talks with the MILF to be hosted by Malaysia on the possibility of resuming stalled peace negotiations.

She did this after MILF guerrillas attacked Siocon town in Zamboanga del Norte, causing the deaths of 28 people.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu, however, said Dureza's resignation might have been an offshoot of what transpired during exploratory talks with MILF on March 29 in Malaysia.

Kabalu said the rebel group had charged Dureza with "trying to put one over on the MILF" by altering the minutes of their meeting on that day.

Ghazali Jaafar, MILF political affairs chief, said Dureza inserted some words in the minutes of the meeting after copies of it had been signed by MILF representatives.

Bypassed

Kabalu said the MILF also suspects Dureza's resignation had to do with the government's "penchant" to bypass him on important decisions.

Kabalu said that during the first GRP-MILF meeting in Kuala Lumpur, it was Secretary Eduardo Ermita who signed the Memorandum of Agreement for the resumption of the peace talks, not Dureza.

"On May 6 and 7, 2002, there were two agreements entered into by the Philippine government and MILF and again the signatory was not him (Dureza) but Secretary (Norberto) Gonzales," he said.

Dureza flew to Manila from Davao City yesterday afternoon to personally hand in his resignation to the President at Malacañang.

Dureza was appointed chair of the GRP (Government Republic of the Philippines) peace panel on Feb. 19, 2001. His appointment came barely a month after he was named Presidential Assistant for Mindanao, a post he had held during the Ramos administration, and chair of the Mindanao Economic Development Council.

Presidential adviser on special concerns Gonzales said he was surprised at Dureza's resignation.

"That's unfortunate. He's very knowledgeable when it comes to the peace effort," he told ABS-CBN News Channel.

Gonzales said he learned of the resignation yesterday from friends, after he arrived from Kuala Lumpur.

'Point man'

As the President's "point man" in "back-channel talks" with the MILF, Gonzales has been said to have effectively taken over Dureza's role.

Gonzales said he briefed Malaysian authorities on the government's latest moves concerning the MILF.

"The emphasis of my talk there was that the MILF cannot be attacking the civilian population. If we want the talks to continue, I think the MILF should be more careful in planning any actions that may harm civilians," he said.

AFP unleashes 1,000 spies vs MILF leaders

By Rosa-May V. de Guzman
PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY—The Armed Forces of the Philippines has deployed at least a thousand spies in south-central Mindanao to help hunt down ranking leaders of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Maj. Gen. Generoso Senga, commander of the Army's 6th Infantry Division based in Maguindanao, said the intelligence operatives were dispatched to the provinces of Maguindanao, Sultan Kudarat, South Cotabato, North Cotabato, Sarangani, Davao del Sur, Davao del Norte, Compostela Valley and the cities of Cotabato, Tacurong, General Santos, Koronadal and Kidapawan City, where the targets could be hiding.

On May 5, the government announced a P50-million reward for information on the whereabouts of MILF chair Salamat Hashim, spokesperson Eid Kabalu, military affairs chief Ebrahim Murad, vice-chair for political affairs Ghadzali Jaafar and internal affairs Alim Mimbantas.

The announcement followed the siege of Siocon town in Zamboanga del Norte last Sunday, which left at least 28 people dead. The rebels had scoffed at the bounty, saying their fellow Muslims would never betray them.

But Senga vowed: "The military and the police are going after them, with or without a reward."

The MILF earlier claimed full responsibility for the Siocon attack.

Mohagher Iqbal, MILF information committee chair, said the rebel group was sorry for the civilian deaths. "We did not intend to kill non-combatants," he told radio station dxMS here. More assaults were to be launched against the military, he said.

In Lanao del Norte, MILF rebels blew up a bridge in Munai town on Thursday evening.

Lt. Col. Francisco Simbajon, spokesperson of the Army's 401st Infantry Brigade, said the rebels used "a homemade bomb" on the Dalama Bridge in Barangay Old Poblacion, which connected the far-flung village to the town center. Two days earlier, Simbajon said, the MILF had torched seven school buildings in Old Poblacion.

Also on Thursday, a rebel was reported dead after a 30-minute firefight with troops in Barangay Bumburan, Barira, Maguindanao. In Sarangani province, the Coast Guard arrested an MILF member, Jeffrey Ko, during an operation in the the coastal town of Glan. *With Edwin O. Fernandez, and Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau; and Martin P. Marfil*

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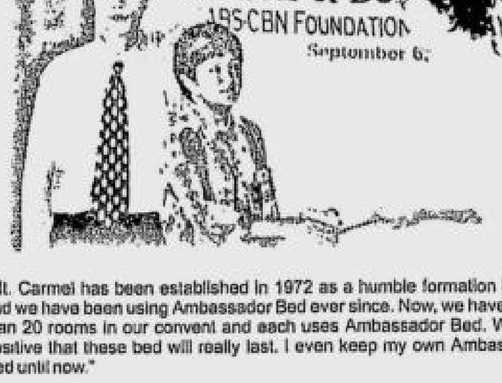

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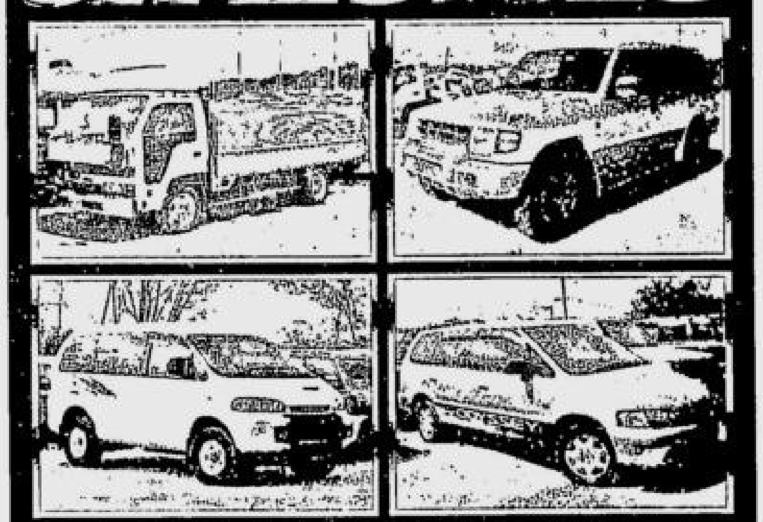

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GMA won't block Cha-cha, or polls

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo will not stop moves in Congress to amend the 1987 Constitution despite the declaration Thursday of the influential religious groups Iglesia ni Cristo and the El Shaddai that now is not the time for it.

In a statement, the President merely issued an assurance to the public that the national elections would push through even if the Charter were amended.

"We must ensure that elections will be held in 2004," she said. "We must respect the desire of the people to have the direct power to install their leaders. I will resist all attempts to breach this principle."

Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin, on the other hand, said he was for Charter change—but only through a constitutional convention.

Sin declared in a letter his support for a group pushing for a constitutional convention to amend the Charter.

"Keep up the good fight. I am with you," he told Joel Rocamora, leader of the Citizens for Con-Con 2004 that now goes by the name of Citizens Against Con-Ass (constituent assembly).

The cardinal's letter dated May 8 was in response to Rocamora's own letter of May 6 expressing his views "on the political situation of the country, especially with regard to constitutional reforms."

"I share your conviction that if ever there will be changes in the Constitution, a constitutional convention must be the mode of reform," Sin said, adding that he would pray "that our political leaders may listen to this clamor."

Even former President Corazon Aquino has weighed in on the burning issue, echoing Sin's stand.

In a statement issued yesterday, Aquino said she agreed that the Charter was "not perfect" but believed there was "a proper time and manner" for amending it.

She said Charter change at this time would "further divide our already deeply fragmented society."

However, she said, "if the majority of our people so desire such a change, it should be done by a fully elected constitutional convention." *Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Christine O. Avendaño*

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Save for 3, all congressmen millionaires

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

ONLY THREE of the 217 members of the House of Representatives are not millionaires, the most recent statements of assets and liabilities (SAL) of the lawmakers showed.

As of Dec. 31, 2002, Las Piñas City Rep. Cynthia Villar was still the wealthiest of the bunch with a net worth of P481.5 million (assets minus liabilities). The neophyte congresswoman listed no liabilities in her SAL, which she filed jointly with her husband, Sen. Manuel Villar, head of the C&P Homes real estate empire. Ms Villar's net worth rose from P405.5 million in 2001, the year she was elected to the House. Her husband also topped the list of Senate millionaires.

Former Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez, who claimed he had no money when he was fighting extradition to the United States, came in second richest with a net worth of P338.3 million, down slightly from his 2001 net worth of P355.8 million. Jimenez, who has since lost his seat on a question of residency, listed assets of P426.3 million and liabilities of P88 million.

The "poorest" member of the House turned out to be Cebu City Rep. Nerissa Soon-Ruiz, a doctor, who had a negative net worth of P265,000. She listed assets of P1.4 million and P1.7 million in liabilities. Ruiz dislodged Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Crispin Beltran, last year's poorest congressman.

Beltran and fellow Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo are the two other non-millionaires in the House. Beltran, who lives in a depressed community in Quezon City, has a net worth of P71,398, from assets of P86,000 and liabilities of P14,602. Ocampo was better off with P551,220 in assets and no liabilities.

Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos, whose family has been accused of stashing billions of dollars abroad during her father former President Ferdinand Marcos' two-decade rule, was way down on the millionaires list. She declared a net worth of only P13.5 million and no liabilities.

On her heels was Tarlac Rep. Benigno Aquino III, only son of Marcos' foe Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. and former President Corazon Aquino. The young Aquino had a net worth of P11.9 million.

Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. was no. 23 on the list with a net worth of P52.4 million. A total of 24 congressmen were worth over P50 million.

The 10 richest congressmen, after Villar and Jimenez, were Vicente Sandoval (Palawan), P251.4 million; Augusto Syjuco (Iloilo), P246.9 million; Rafael Nantes (Quezon), P106.7 million; Abdullah Dimaporo (Lanao del Norte), P104 million; Jack Enrile (Cagayan), P93.4 million; Antonio Floirendo Jr. (Davao del Norte), P93.2 million; Ismael "Chuck" Mathay III (Quezon City), P78 million, and Jose Hizon (Manila), P76.7 million.

The other ranking millionaires were Mark Cojuangco (Pangasinan), son of business tycoon Eduardo Cojuangco, with a net worth of P76.1 million; his cousin Gilbert Teodoro of Tarlac who had P75.5 million; Rodolfo Plaza Jr. (Agusan del Sur), P75 million; Teodoro Locsin Jr. (Makati City), P73.2 million; Oscar Garin (Iloilo), P65.8 million; Ronaldo Zamora (San Juan), P64 million; Juan Pablo Bondoc (Pampanga), P63.8 million; Antonio Roman (Bataan), P62.3 million, and newly installed Leyte Rep. Eufrocinio Codilla Sr., P58.8 million.

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Suits vs US firms won't hurt OFWs in Iraq, says exec

By Blanche S.Rivera

PENDING lawsuits in the Philippines against American construction giants that bagged contracts for post-war reconstruction in Iraq would not diminish employment opportunities of Filipino contractors and workers, labor officials said yesterday.

Acting Labor Secretary Josephus Jimenez, however, warned overseas Filipino workers eyeing jobs in Iraq that "some destinations" did not take lightly the exercise of workers' rights.

But he said the government would not "waive the rights of Filipino workers" just to get a chunk of the $100-billion reconstruction plan for Iraq, which is expected to boost OFW employment in the next five years.

"We want to get contracts abroad, but it should be done within the framework of Philippine laws and International Labor Organization conventions," Jimenez told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

The National Labor Relations Commission earlier ordered the United States firm Bechtel Corp. and its local partner EEI Corp. to pay $6.5 million to 630 Filipino workers hired for a project in Algeria that was not completed due to a war.

The NLRC also slapped Halliburton-KBR (Kellogg Brown and Root) with a $600-million fine following a complaint filed by OFWs. The two firms have appealed the decisions.

Bechtel bagged an initial $37-million contract—which sources said could reach $650 million—for the emergency repair of Iraq's roads, bridges, power and water utilities, schools and hospitals. Halliburton-KBR won a $43.4-million deal to repair and sustain Iraqi oil infrastructure.

Also yesterday, a lawyer asked the Supreme Court to stop President Macapagal-Arroyo from dispatching a humanitarian mission to Iraq.

In a taxpayer's suit, Manuel J. Laserna Jr., a law professor at the Far Eastern University, said sending the contingent was tantamount to a "unilateral presidential declaration of war" against Iraq. *With Michael Lim Ubac*

Jinggoy mulling over run for office

By Volt Contreras

"MAYBE for congressman."

Jinggoy Estrada yesterday said he was thinking of running for public office again in May 2004.

But of all places, the former San Juan mayor made the disclosure before the court that was trying him for plunder along with his father, deposed President Joseph Estrada. The same Sandiganbayan special division had allowed him to post P500,000 bail last March 6.

During a hearing on his May 5 request to travel to the United States, the younger Estrada was asked if he intended to run again for mayor of his hometown.

"I think so," Jinggoy replied.

Justice Edilberto Sandoval pointed out that Jinggoy might be running against his half-brother JV Ejercito, the incumbent.

"We can talk things over," Jinggoy said, and added that he might run instead for congress.

Sandoval had tossed the question after state prosecutors opposing the US trip raised the possibility that Jinggoy would not return if allowed to leave

Taking his oath, the ex-mayor stated his current occupation as "actor." During the proceedings, he presented himself as a father who just wanted to keep a promise to his children.

"I will be back. Definitely, your honor," the 40-year-old father of three said, "because this is my country." He said this would be so even if his bail were cancelled while he was away, which was the prosecutors' immediate concern, since they have formally sought the cancellation.

His lawyers told the court that Jinggoy had in fact booked his departure and return flights—out on May 19 and back on June 14.

This drew more protests from the government lawyers, who accused Jinggoy of "assuming" that his request would be granted.

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio insinuated that Jinggoy meant to proceed to Las Vegas to confer with Charlie "Atong" Ang, his father's crony and another co-accused.

Red purges of '80s to be recalled

LUCENA CITY—They shall never forget.

Survivors and relatives of the victims of the Communist Party of the Philippines purges in the 1980s will gather today to commemorate the lives of the fallen.

A stone marker and 2,000 candles will be lighted at the Parke ng Kalayaan on the University of the Philippines campus in Diliman. A symbolic tree-planting and a night of poetry and songs will also be held.

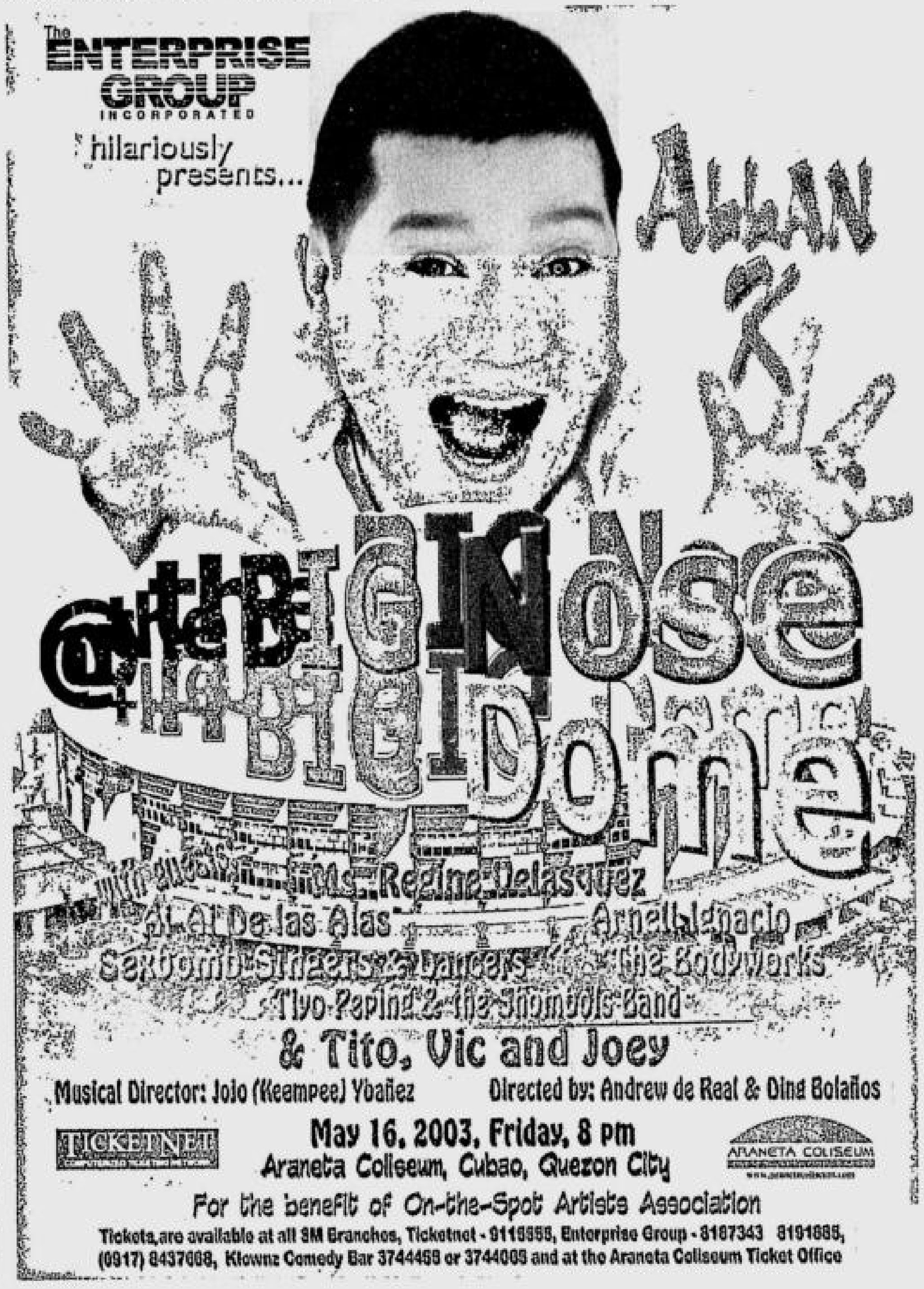
"We hope it will be an occasion for everyone to collectively mourn the deaths of loved ones and remember their deeds in the service of the revolution," said Robert Francis Garcia, one of the organizers of the event.

Garcia stressed the activity will "not be an occasion for recrimination."

The mass killings were carried out as part of a campaign to weed out suspected government spies in the rebel ranks. Most of those killed were buried in mass graves in different parts of the country.

Rodolfo Salas, CPP chair from 1977 to 1986, admitted that at least 1,800 CPP-NPA cadres and civilians were killed during the campaigns. The military estimated about 4,000 to 6,000 people were killed. Several CPP cadres were held accountable for the killings and expelled, resulting in a serious split in the party.

Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau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FEVER WATCH

FEVER MANAGEMENT IN THE TIME OF PNEUMONIA

What Is Pneumonia?

Pneumonia is a disease that occurs when the lungs get inflamed, usually due to infection. It's a more common problem than most people think. Usually it's a mild disease, but some forms are very dangerous and require a consultation with a doctor. An example is the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome or SARS, whose cause and cure have yet to be discovered. About 30 different kinds of germs infect the lungs and cause pneumonia. Infected lungs leak fluids and shed dead cells. This material clogs up air sacs and makes it hard for the lungs to do their job of getting oxygen into the blood. Without enough oxygen, none of the cells in your body work as they should.

Pneumonia can affect just one section of the lung or many sections of the lung. When both lungs are affected, it's called double pneumonia. Pneumonia generally lasts about two weeks. But it may take a month or more for the infected lung or lungs to clear up. Thus, when recovering from pneumonia, even healthy people may feel tired or weak.

Causes

Viruses cause about half of all cases of pneumonia. Bacteria are the most common cause of pneumonia in adults over the age of 30. Fungi can also cause pneumonia. Many of these germs are all around us. They usually can't get past a healthy person's natural defenses. That's why pneumonia is most common in elderly people, in cigarette smokers, in alcoholics, and in people suffering from other diseases such as the flu.

Symptoms

- Viral pneumonia usually comes with a combination of low fever and chills, muscle aches, fatigue, enlarged lymph nodes in the neck, chest pain, sore throat, and coughing. The cough generally brings up only a small amount of mucus.
- Bacterial pneumonia usually comes with a combination of high fever, cough with thick greenish or rust-colored mucus, shortness of breath, rapid breathing, sharp chest pain that is worse with deep breaths, abdominal pain, and severe fatigue. There can be profuse sweating and mental confusion.
- In children, labored and rapid breathing (more than 45 breaths a minute); sudden onset of fever; cough; wheezing; and bluish skin, lips, or fingertips are general signs of pneumonia.
- Mycoplasma pneumonia is often very benign and resolves without any treatment. Symptoms can consist of violent attacks of coughing that bring up only a small amount of mucus. There are chills and fever; some people get nausea or vomiting. Some patients become very weak for up to a month.

Fever as a symptom and why it should be managed at the onset

Fever is a common symptom among the kinds of pneumonia. That's because fever is, by itself, the body's warning signal that there is an infection. It is very important that fever not be ignored so that a disease, whether pneumonia or not, can be detected and further complications be avoided. In the case of pneumonia, the best thing to do is to manage your fever at the first sign.

> *"Fever as a symptom of pneumonia should always be managed at the onset"*

Managing Fever at the Onset

Whether it's mild or high, you should take Paracetamol like Biogesic to help alleviate your suffering from fever. Drink plenty of fluids and avoid physical and mental stress. It is also advisable to dress in light clothing so that you feel comfortable and your temperature can stabilize. After managing your fever, this does not mean that the rest of the symptoms should be taken lightly.

When to consult a doctor

- Your symptoms indicate you have any form of pneumonia. In many instances, you need immediate treatment to recover and avoid complications.
- Your sharp chest pain does not get better with prescribed treatment; you have increased shortness of breath; or your fingernails, toenails, or skin becomes dark or develop a bluish tinge after diagnosis. Your lungs are not getting enough oxygen and you need medical assistance.
- You cough up blood; you may need additional treatment for a worsening infection.

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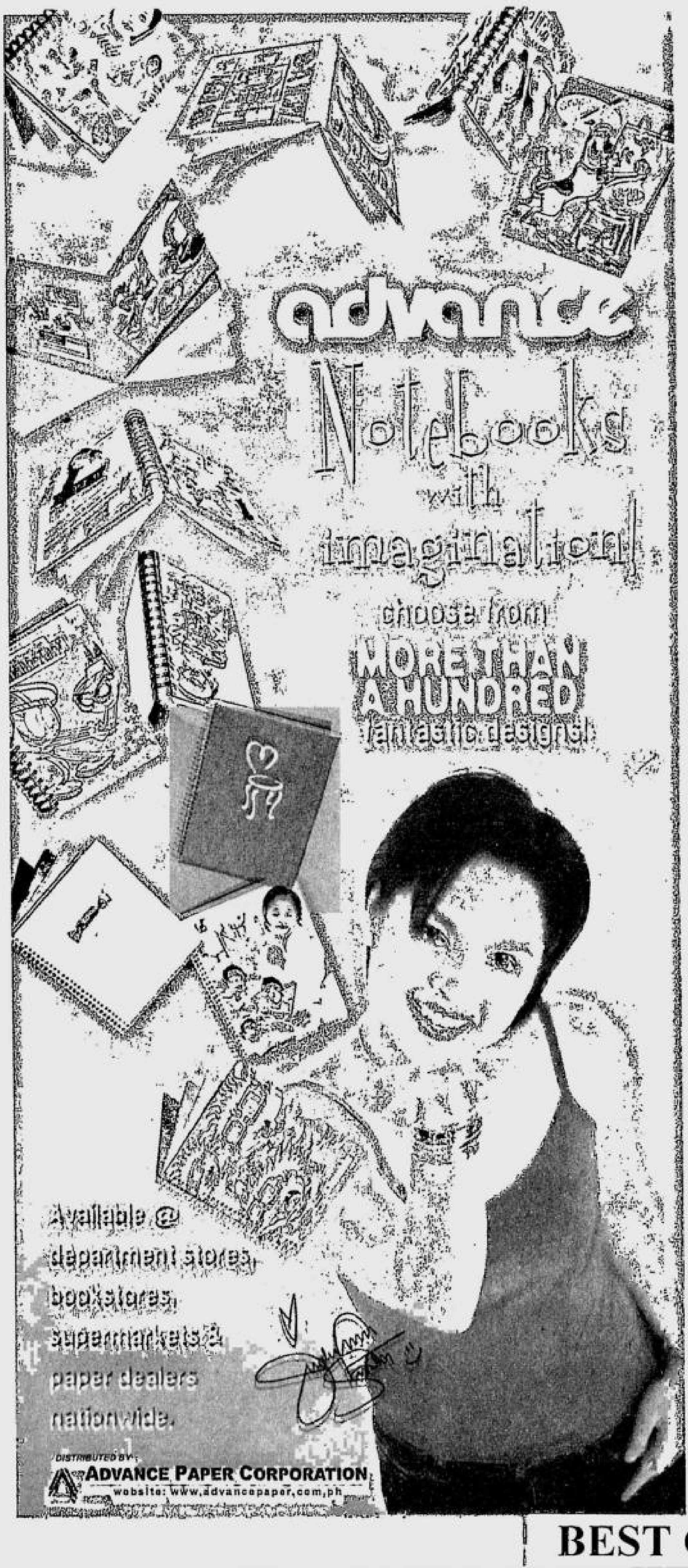
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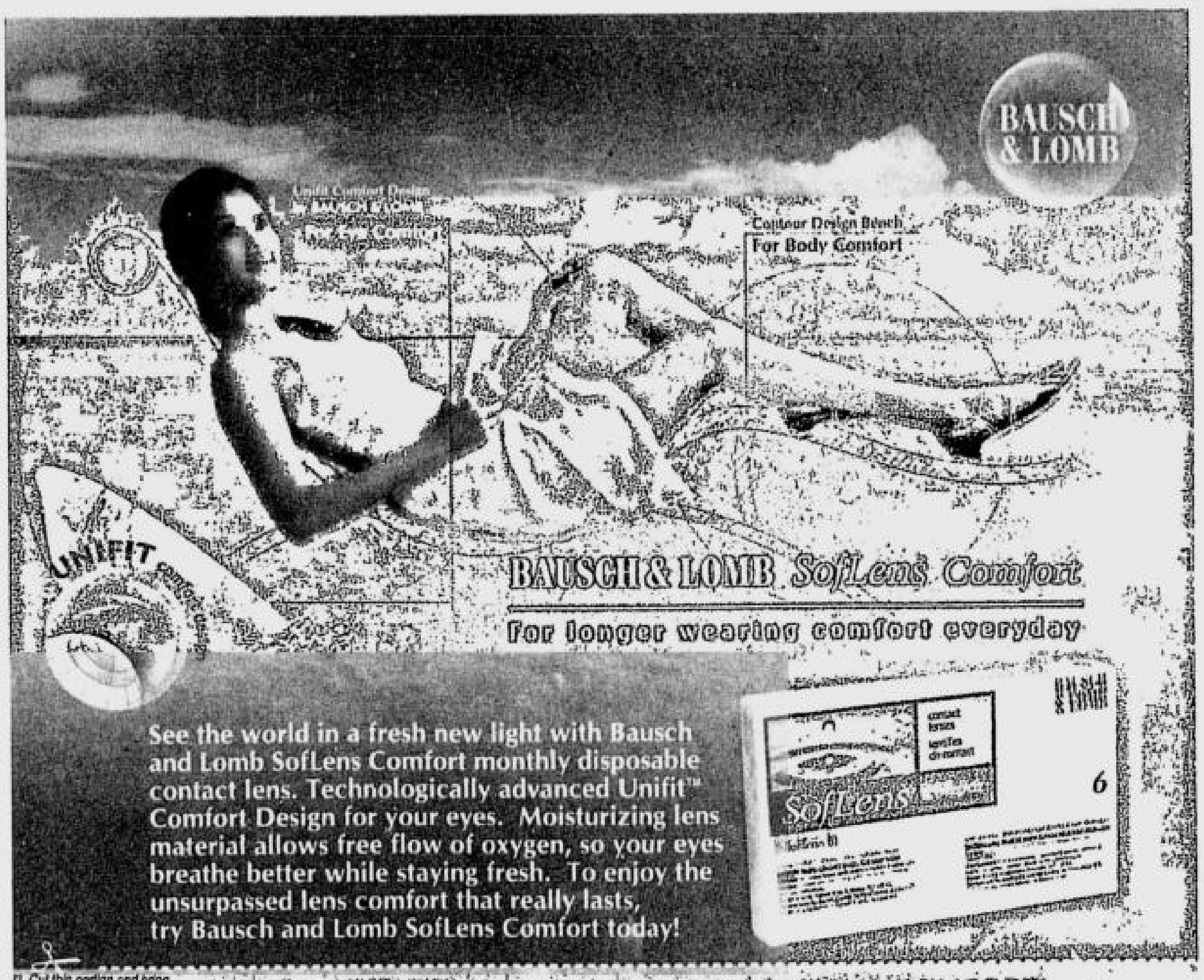
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SARS lab tests over; some cases confirmed

By Armand N. Nocum

RESULTS of tests done on the country's 10 SARS cases have reportedly confirmed that some were indeed infected by the SARS virus.

"We have the laboratory results. The secretary [of health] will formally announce the findings next week," said an INQUIRER source who asked not to be identified.

The source said those who tested negative for the virus could be stricken from the list of SARS cases, but he added that findings are not deemed "conclusive" unless the Department of Health's panel of experts says so.

Sources said the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM) in Alabang, Muntinlupa City, did 10 tests; two confirmatory tests were done in Japan.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit admitted the test results were in, but he refused to say what the findings were. He asked people not to "jump the gun" on the panel of experts he and the World Health Organization had earlier formed to review SARS cases in the country.

"That has to go through an expert panel," Dayrit said of the laboratory findings.

The five-man panel is made up of pulmonologists, epidemiologists and infectious disease experts. It recently declared that the country had 10, not just three, SARS cases.

Dayrit said the WHO will delist non-SARS cases upon the recommendation of the panel of experts.

"The WHO will act upon our own evaluation. WHO reports essentially what the government reports to them, and until the government reports to them and can show documentation, it will not change the figures," he said of the country's 10 SARS cases.

Meanwhile, Dr. Arturo Cabanban, San Lazaro Hospital head, said three more suspected SARS cases have been brought to the hospital, bringing the number of SARS suspects there to five.

Cabanban, however, assured the public that the condition of the five is improving.

Despite the number of SARS cases in the country, President Macapagal-Arroyo remained upbeat.

During her weekly television program, "The Working President," Ms Macapagal boasted that health authorities were able to contain the disease even without the hi-tech gadgets and equipment other nations like Singapore and Hong Kong have.

She said the Philippines is not considered by the WHO as a SARS-infected country. *With a report from Dona Pazzibugan*

Taiwan, S'pore issue travel advisories vs RP

From page A1

based in Manila. It issued a statement last night saying that the Philippines presented a negligible risk to travellers.

"At this point, it is unrealistic for any country to impose a travel ban on the Philippines or to impose restrictions on travellers from the Philippines," said WHO's Philippine representative Jean-Marc Olivé.

"As long as visitors take the normal precautions that they do in their home country, they will have no problems."

"There are no known cases of SARS in the community," said Olivé. "The 10 cases that have been reported have all been isolated in hospitals. Health authorities know the full chain of transmission linked to one imported case and are confident they have identified and isolated all the contacts."

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From page A1

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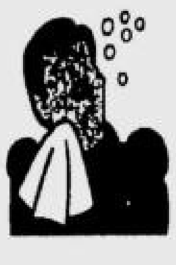
STOP SARS ATTACK

SARS D●H OFFICIAL ADVISORY

SATURDAY 10 May 2003

SARS VIRUS TRAVELS WITHIN THREE FEET only



A person may get infected with the SARS virus if he/she is within three feet of another person who has been diagnosed as a SARS case.

When a SARS-infected person sneezes or coughs, he/she releases the virus in the droplets that travel within three feet. This is why persons infected, or suspected to be infected with SARS are advised to wear masks to protect others who are around that person. Health workers and caregivers who handle SARS patient are also required to wear those as part of their personal protective equipment.

Question.

I'm a chambermaid in a 5-star hotel where people from different countries come and go. Now that SARS is here in the country, I'm too afraid of holding the doorknobs and changing the linens in the room because I might be infected with the disease. Are my worries justifiable?

Answer.

Yes, it is possible to get SARS from doorknobs if it was recently touched by a SARS patient whose hand may have carried the infectious droplets. However, this situation is more likely to happen in countries where SARS is widely spread.

To protect yourself from any disease, always practice personal hygiene and use simple protective gears like wearing masks and hand gloves. Refrain from touching or putting your hand near your face while cleaning so as to avoid the chance of inhaling infectious droplets. It is also important to regularly disinfect parts of the building that are frequently used or touched by many people, like doorknobs and the railing of stairs.

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UM SINCE 1913

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SARS lab tests over; some cases confirmed

By Armand N. Nocum

RESULTS of tests done on the country's 10 SARS cases have reportedly confirmed that some were indeed infected by the SARS virus.

"We have the laboratory results. The secretary [of health] will formally announce the findings next week," said an INQUIRER source who asked not to be identified.

The source said those who tested negative for the virus could be stricken from the list of SARS cases, but he added that findings are not deemed "conclusive" unless the Department of Health's panel of experts says so.

Sources said the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM) in Alabang, Muntinlupa City, did 10 tests; two confirmatory tests were done in Japan.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit admitted the test results were in, but he refused to say what the findings were. He asked people not to "jump the gun" on the panel of experts he and the World Health Organization had earlier formed to review SARS cases in the country.

"That has to go through an expert panel," Dayrit said of the laboratory findings.

The five-man panel is made up of pulmonologists, epidemiologists and infectious disease experts. It recently declared that the country had 10, not just three, SARS cases.

Dayrit said the WHO will delist non-SARS cases upon the recommendation of the panel of experts.

"The WHO will act upon our own evaluation. WHO reports essentially what the government reports to them, and until the government reports to them and can show documentation, it will not change the figures," he said of the country's 10 SARS cases.

Meanwhile, Dr. Arturo Cabanban, San Lazaro Hospital head, said three more suspected SARS cases have been brought to the hospital; bringing the number of SARS suspects there to five.

Cabanban, however, assured the public that the condition of the five is improving.

Despite the number of SARS cases in the country, President Macapagal-Arroyo remained upbeat.

During her weekly television program, "The Working President," Ms Macapagal boasted that health authorities were able to contain the disease even without the hi-tech gadgets and equipment other nations like Singapore and Hong Kong have.

She said the Philippines is not considered by the WHO as a SARS-infected country. *With a report from Dona Pazzibugan*

Taiwan, S'pore issue travel advisories vs RP

From page A1

based in Manila. It issued a statement last night saying that the Philippines presented a negligible risk to travellers.

"At this point, it is unrealistic for any country to impose a travel ban on the Philippines or to impose restrictions on travellers from the Philippines," said WHO's Philippine representative Jean-Marc Olivé.

"As long as visitors take the normal precautions that they do in their home country, they will have no problems."

"There are no known cases of SARS in the community," said Olivé. "The 10 cases that have been reported have all been isolated in hospitals. Health authorities know the full chain of transmission linked to one imported case and are confident they have identified and isolated all the contacts."

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SARS D@H OFFICIAL ADVISORY

SATURDAY 10 May 2003

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Controversial Corpus now a general

By Martin Marfil

CONTROVERSIAL military intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus is now a general.

Corpus was among the 58 colonels and Navy captains promoted to the next higher rank by President Macapagal-Arroyo following passage of the law increasing the number of star-rank officers in the military to 136.

Ms Macapagal also promoted 16 star-rank officers to the next higher rank.

Asked if he expected the Commission on Appointments, which would have to confirm the promotions, to give him a hard time, the intelligence chief said that people know the answer to that question.

"That is expected," he said.

Corpus drew the ire of several lawmakers when he accompanied former government witness Ador Mawanay to various hearings where Mawanay linked some senators, particularly Sen. Panfilo Lacson, to supposed anomalies.

Mawanay's allegations remain unproven and his credibility was severely shaken. He has since been removed from the protection of both the Armed Forces Intelligence Service and the Witness Protection Program.

Armory raid

Corpus first gained national attention when, as a Philippine Military Academy instructor in 1970, he had led a band of New People's Army rebels in a raid on the institution's armory.

He subsequently became a leading communist and NPA figure, trained communist cadres and participated in guerilla military operations.

He surrendered in 1976 and was detained for 10 years.

After being granted amnesty, he returned to the military establishment.

He was again thrown into the limelight when he participated in the Edsa II revolt which propelled Ms Macapagal to the presidency.

74 promoted

The promotions of the 58new generals took effect on April 16while the promotions of 16 star-rank officers took effect April 15.

Among those promoted to the rank of two star-general were former Presidential Security Group chief Brig. Gen. Glenn Rabonza, chief of the 8th Infantry Division, and current PSG chief Brig. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon. Among Navy captains, Franklin Magsanoc was promoted to commodore.

Study new school sked, GMA orders

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday told the education and health departments to study the matter of postponing the school opening from June to September.

She said all sectors that would be affected by the change should be consulted.

"I would like our health and education authorities to undertake quick consultations with the private education sector as well as teachers' organizations and PTAs (parent-teacher associations) so that we can have a clear view of the issues and concerns, and the options we can take," Ms Macapagal said in a statement.

In making a decision, she said all parties should have foremost in mind the health and safety of students and, after that, the feasibility and practicality of adjusting the school calendar. *Dona Z. Pazzibugan*

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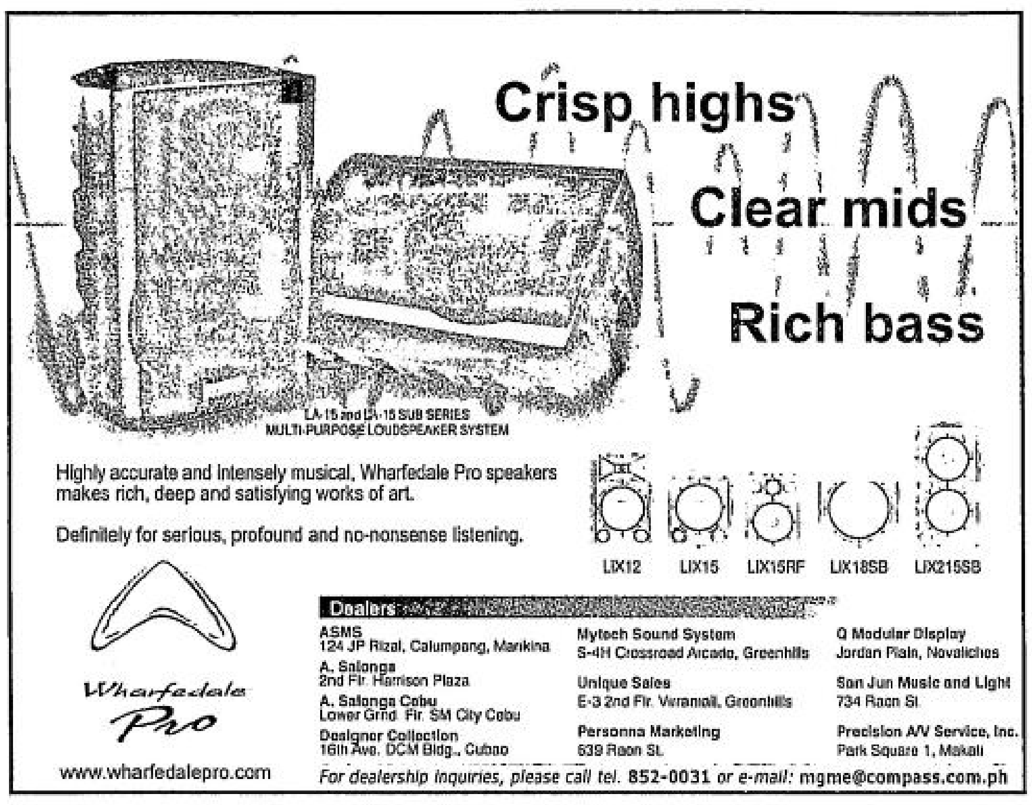
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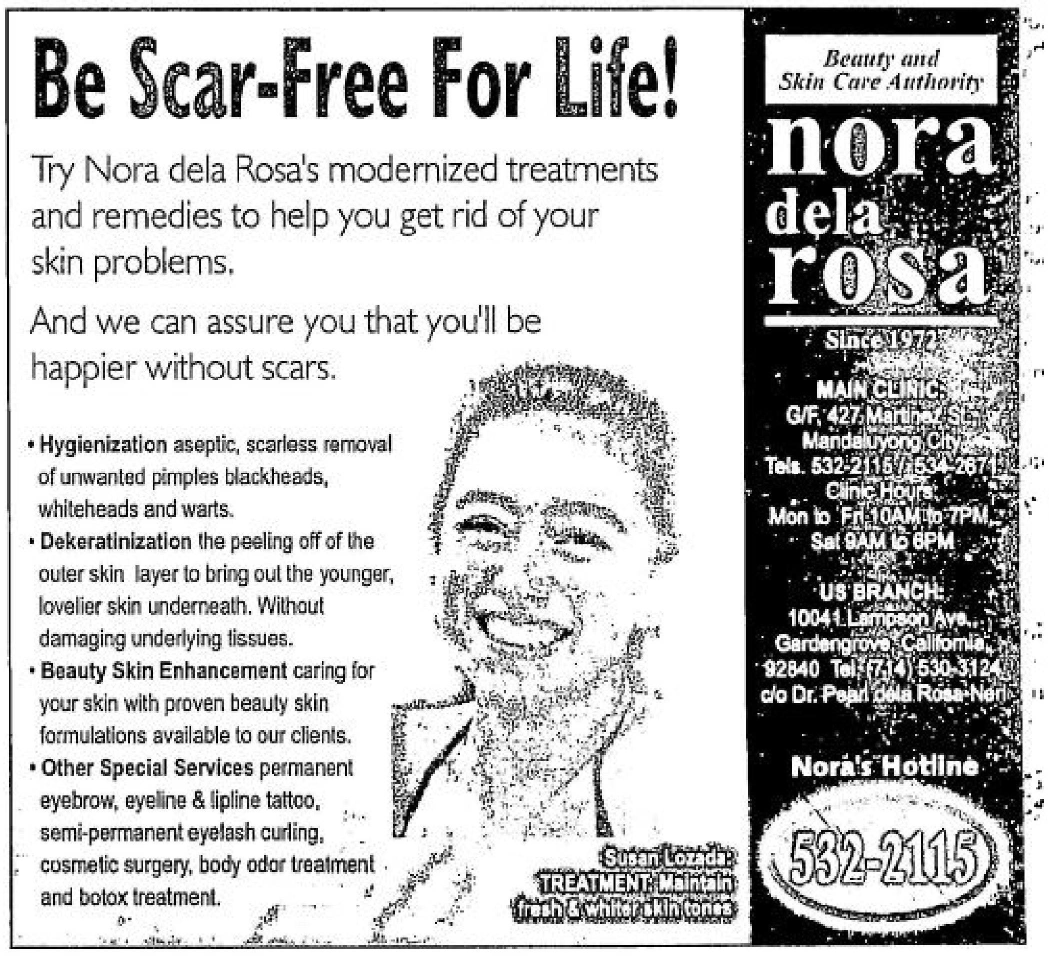
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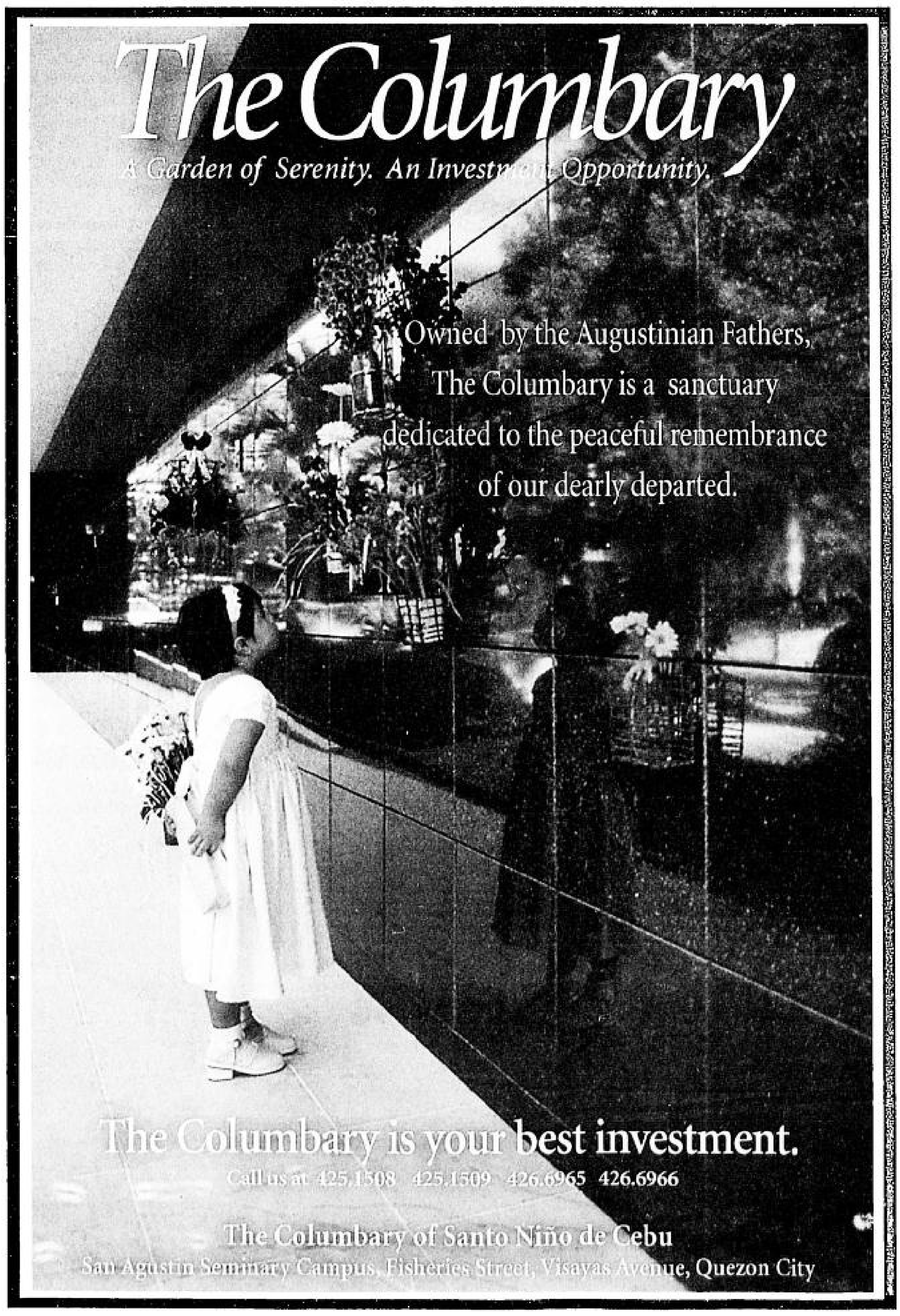
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Widening conflict

EDITORIAL

THE ATTACK on Siocon, Zambaonga del Norte, last Sunday by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front snapped the fragile thread of the peace process that had been frazzled by escalating clashes between MILF forces and government troops since January last year.

The attack on Siocon, a mainly civilian community, left 22 people dead and 23 others wounded, mostly civilians. It was marked by a ferocity not seen in previous fighting. The rebels torched the public market, attacked homes, the town hall, a hospital and took hostages.

Since Siocon was not a strategic military post, the attack has expanded the scope of conflict to claim civilian victims. The conflict has developed into a war in which civilians are no longer peripheral but central victims. Witness the wave of hostage-takings that has characterized the clashes.

MILF leaders said the attack was in retaliation for the military attack on the Buliok complex in North Cotabato, which the government identified as a rebel stronghold.

The Siocon attack dramatizes the deterioration of the peace process, which has been desultory at best. It caused President Macapagal-Arroyo to suspend exploratory talks to end the impasse with the MILF. The MILF attacked while preparations for the talks were well under way in Kuala Lumpur. It came even as MILF leaders said they were sending a delegation to the talks.

Although the government sees the futility of the talks in the face of spiralling violence, it did not shut the door completely to a resumption of talks. It left the door open for mediation by Malaysia, and even by the Organization of Islamic Conference. In the immediate term, however, it looks like the conflict has developed into a test of strength whose resolution will take some time and whose toll in terms of lives and economic and social devastation will mount, damaging both Christian and Islamic communities in Central Mindanao.

Both the government and the MILF have escalated their actions. Bounties have again been put on the heads of MILF leaders.

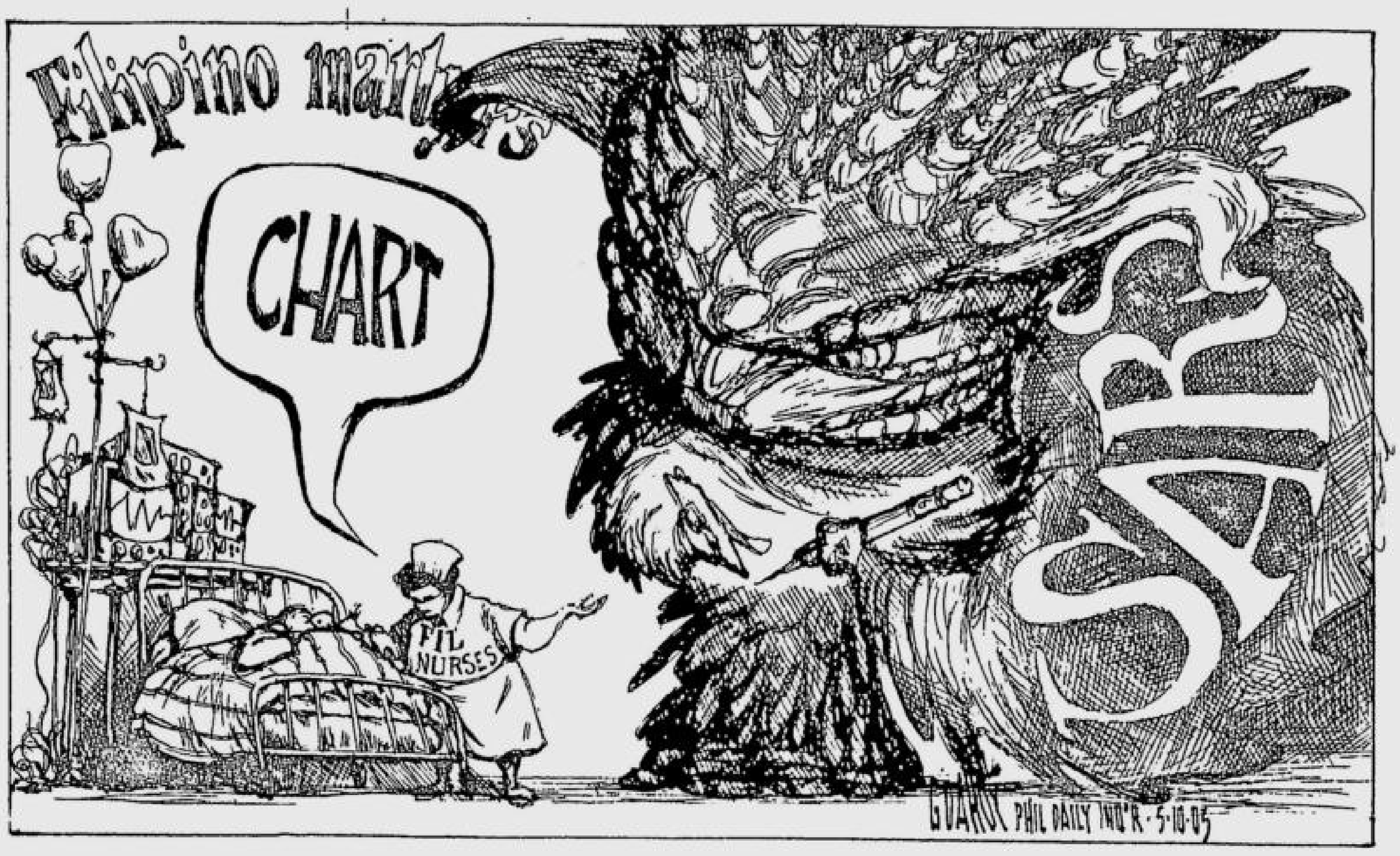
On the other hand, the MILF has warned of further attacks unless the military withdrew from Buliok and the government dropped murder charges against MILF leaders whom the government held responsible for the bombings in the Davao airport and the Sasa wharf in March and April.

The MILF claims that the Siocon attack was part of its "active defense posture," and the government is not behind in describing its military action as "active defense mode." These semantical exercises cannot mask the fact that the conflict has been pushed to the edge of a full-blown war.

This phase is different from former President Joseph Estrada's "all-out war" in which a military offensive overrun 47 MILF camps in Central Mindanao. Today, there are fewer MILF-controlled territories to sweep and the main thrust of the military campaign is to launch punitive operations against mobile guerrilla units. After the fall of the MILF bases, the guerrillas reorganized into small units not holding any territory and are therefore a more elusive target than in 2000. They hold the initiative to attack.

Military offensives in Muslim communities are likely to inflict greater havoc on civilians than on guerrillas who quickly disappear from the scene of combat. Conversely, the MILF has fewer compunctions in taking hostages and in attacking predominantly Christian civilian communities. This tit-for-tat, which increasingly claims civilian lives and inflicts economic damage to communities, must stop. This is the urgent reason efforts must be redoubled to reopen channels of negotiation, possibly with the active mediation of the usual peace brokers like Malaysia, Indonesia and the OIC.

While the government has responded to the raids with a get-tough policy, this is not yet the "all-out war" that characterized Estrada's campaign. The tragedy of this conflict is that it is evolving into terrorism that holds hostage civilian communities. While the government can apply military pressure to force the guerrillas back to negotiations, the more hawkish segments of the military itching for "search and destroy" should be restrained from matching MILF terror with military terror. The President should take tighter control of military operations.



The Lacson case again

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THE SENATE has begun conducting new legislative investigations like the problem of drug addiction among the players in the PBA. Considering the relative unimportance of that subject, I am wondering again why it has not yet decided the Lacson investigation which was concluded on Sept. 5, 2001.

I had written no less than 11 articles in this column about the expected decision in that investigation and had hoped that the last one would be where I asked if the Lacson case was already dead. That was on April 5, 2003. Three days later, Sen. Loren Legarda sent me by special messenger the following letter:

"This refers to your column dated April 5, 2003 regarding the alleged delay in considering for plenary discussion the Committee Report on the Lacson investigation.

"Please be informed that Committee Report No. 66, prepared jointly by the Committees on Public Order and Illegal Drugs, and Accountability of Public Officers, has been routed to the members of the Minority Bloc for their review and signature. We are currently waiting for all the members of the Committee to finish reviewing and signing the report, which remains a legislator's time-honored prerogative and consequence of the mandate to be conscientious public servants.

"We regret that the seeming delay to include the said Committee report among plenary debates has raised unfavorable allegation on our part. Allow us to assure the good gentlemen, that, like what we have said before, the moment that all members of the committee have signed the report, we will immediately schedule the sponsorship of the Committee Report by Senator Barbers, the chairman of the Committee, as well as the plenary debates on this.

"Thank you for your interest in the status of the said Committee Report."

Let me say at the outset that the delay is not, as Senator Legarda describes it, "alleged" and "seeming." It is actual. No less than 20 months have passed since the last hearing was held in 2001. There was also no need to pontificate on "a legislator's time-honored prerogative and a consequence of the mandate to be conscientious public servants." That pompous statement is negated by the long inaction of the Senate on the Lacson case.

Loren says that after the legislators "time-honored prerogative" of reviewing and signing the report, it will be scheduled for plenary debate. The problem, though, is what will happen if some of the members do not choose to exercise their time-honored "prerogative," which Webster defines as a prior or *exclusive* right. What will the esteemed majority leader do if the minority members simply fold their arms and refuse to review and sign the report?

What I'm interested in is the release of the Senate verdict, whatever it may be. I am merely suggesting that after the Senate had spent so much time, effort and public funds in conducting the hearings that excited much public attention, a decision in the case should be made, one way or the other, for the information of the people. No less than the Constitution guarantees the right to know about matters of public concern such as the Lacson case.

Following Senator Legarda's assurance, the case will be scheduled for plenary debates only when the committee members shall have read and signed Committee Report No. 66. All the minority has to do if the Report is adverse to their colleague is sit on it and continue the "alleged" or "seeming" delay that will keep it in the deep freezer and ultimately chill it to death...The people will simply be kept guessing about the charges that have been filed against the respondent senator, who, significantly, has already announced his candidacy in the 2004 presidential elections.

The obvious reluctance of the senators to rule on the Lacson investigation reminds me of the case of Salonga v. Paño, 134 SCRA 438, where the petitioner's persecution on orders of Malacañang was invalidated by the Supreme Court. Promulgation of Justice Hugo E. Gutierrez's *ponencia* was delayed, however, because some justices hesitated to sign it for fear of incurring the dictator's ire.

The decision was reached on Oct. 14, 1984, and was circulated for signature on Nov. 2, 1984. But it was released only on Feb. 18, 1985, after Marcos, who had been tipped of the adverse ruling, had ordered the re-study and subsequent withdrawal of the case. Justice Vicente Abad Santos commented wryly: "The decision could have had a greater impact had it been promulgated prior to the executive action." So much for the retroactive courage of the Supreme Court then.

Will the Senate continue to temporize on the Lacson case in the hope that it will have to be dismissed once their hero is elected President of the Philippines? Are some of them hoping to be included in his ticket, possibly even as his running mate? Are they like the craven justices of the martial law Supreme Court who believed their cowardice was the better part of valor?

The majority members of the Senate may rule on the Lacson case if the minority members refuse to exercise their "time-honored prerogative." The Drilon group should not allow themselves to be manipulated by the minority bloc if, having the votes, they also have the courage to act on their convictions.

A waste of taxpayers' money

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

WITH THE ELECTIONS still a whole year away, interest in the presidential derby nevertheless seems to be pretty high, if the column inches of newspaper space and the amount of radio and TV time devoted to the statements and activities of the contenders are any indication. Not to mention the attention given to the results of the Social Weather Stations and Pulse Asia surveys on presidential and senatorial choices. (Unfortunately, attention is also given to the results of other surveys, whose scientific bases are open to question.)

Contrast this with the attitude of near-indifference to what the Commission on Elections is doing (or not doing) to implement the election automation law passed by Congress way back in December 1997—with its obvious impact on the results of the presidential derby as well as the other electoral contests.

Let's do first things first, please. There's no point in finding out who the public is likely to vote for, if those votes will not be counted properly. After all, *dagdag-bawas* is something we are all familiar with.

One who has his priorities right, who has the expertise to analyze what the Comelec is doing, and, at least equally important, doesn't have any partisan political axes to grind, is Gus Lagman. So when he speaks, we should all heed his opinion and advice on matters dealing with the electoral process.

Lagman's professional credentials and credibility are beyond question. He has been involved with counting votes since the 1984 Batasan Pambansa elections under the Marcos dictatorship, being involved with Namfrel's Operation Quick Count (OQC), and has the '86, '87, '92, '95, '98 and 2001 elections under his belt—his services being purely voluntary. And the reason Joe Concepcion asked him to participate was that he was then president of the Philippine Computer Society (he has been president five separate times, by the way), not to mention being founding president of the Information Technology Association of the Philippines (ITAP).

In fact, judging from the number of CEO positions he holds (eight as of the last count) plus various directorships, he needs to be involved with election matters like he needs a hole in the head. What drives him to do it? The same thing that drives Concepcion and others: sheer love of country; patriotism is not dead in this country, by any means.

So what does Lagman have to say about the Comelec's "modernization" program? It is contained in a short paper (which he took the time and the effort to make understandable to the layman) he sent out to some members of the media a couple of days ago. Hopefully, it will be given fullest publicity—or at least enough to pressure the Comelec to mend its ways—in time to ensure that the will of the people during elections is not subverted.

The paper is entitled "An Analysis of the Comelec's Voters' Validation System Project" (VVSP), and subtitled "Why is the Comelec Wasting P1 Billion of Taxpayer Money?" In his paper, Lagman explains, in no uncertain terms, why the VVSP is unnecessary and therefore a big-time waste of our money.

He starts with what the VVS is: It is Phase I of the Comelec's Modernization Project, which, per its bid specifications, addresses the problems of the Computerized Voters' List (CVL), namely its being either padded and bloated, or understated, or juggled, in different areas.

So why should this project be unnecessary and a waste of money? In the first place, says Lagman, published Comelec records themselves show that in the areas investigated, double registrants comprised anywhere from 0.04 percent to 0.09 percent of voters. Hardly anything to write home about. Popoy Juico's Find-Precinct.com project, which did not cost the Comelec a single peso, also reported that the extent of "double registration" in the May 2001 elections was 0.3 percent in the NCR and 0.2 percent in 26 other cities covered by the project (my information is that Juico's group could have done other areas, but some Comelec commissioners, in particular Luz Tancangco, refused to cooperate). In absolute numbers, the estimated "double registrants" in the NCR in the May 2001 elections was 15,328 out of 5.1 million voters.

In the second place, the project will be useless for the 2004 elections, because only a very small percentage of the voting population will have been reregistered and electronically recorded by then. Lagman points out that the project's "deliverables," as specified by the Comelec, are very vague: "Validate...as many voters' records as feasible" (no number); and "Initiate...building a central data base" (again no number).

In the third place, flying voters are no longer the preferred or even the most efficient way of cheating. It has been replaced by manipulating the counting and canvassing of results by *dagdag* and *dagdag-bawas,* which the VVS cannot address.

In the fourth place, if purifying the CVL is the aim, it can be done in a much less expensive manner, which Lagman proceeds to detail. And if flying voters are the problem, this can be solved by the Comelec's making sure the indelible ink is indelible, and requiring voters to dip their finger in it rather than applying it with a dropper (as they do in Cambodia and Indonesia).

Lastly, Lagman points out that the project is illegal, if we apply the principle stated in the Supreme Court ruling that declared the Voters' Registration Information System (VRIS) null and void.

How more compelling can one get? Let's listen to Lagman.

Looking for that super-special cad

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

FOUR senators were quoted as saying that the general mentioned by Abu Sayyaf hostage Gracia Burnham to have asked for 50 percent of any ransom paid should be court-martialled. Of course. But I think the proper way to go about it is first to determine whether Burnham's report is true or not. The best way is to confront her directly. Perhaps the Senate could invite her to testify.

* * *

What's now coming out is that Burnham heard the accusation from Abu Sabaya, who, as Palace Chief of Staff Rigoberto Tiglao put it, was a "good propagandist" and "psywar operator." It must be remembered that Burnham heard nothing but Sabaya's stories for a year, and as she put it in an interview recently, "I prefaced everything in the book that this is something I was told." So it's hearsay on her part.

Even that tidbit about Sabaya conducting a satellite phone conversation with President Macapagal, wherein he "berated" her for demanding their unconditional surrender, is ridiculous. Nobody would believe GMA could be so mindless as to talk to this bandit. As Magsaysay Awardee for theater Cecile Alvarez put it, "*Dinrama lang ni* Sabaya *'yung* phone call with GMA. *Lahat naman pwedeng idrama.*"

* * *

I'm not saying that smaller Indians could not have colluded with the Abu Sayyaf, selling them provisions and government-issued medicines. Of course, it could also be civilian bureaucrats who sold them such stuff. But for a general to cut a deal on ransom especially with an enemy which is a notorious bandit group, he's got to be a super-special kind of cad. If Burnham's accusation is true, then this most abominable of all creatures ought to be rushed to a firing squad.

* * *

One has to understand the unique kind of bonding among soldiers and officers forged from the sharing of many perils to lives constantly lived dangerously. For lack of a better example, let me cite how, during the mistaken strafing of my husband's defending unit in Libis, Quezon City by a government plane during the December 1989 failed coup attempt, several soldiers instinctively piled on top of him to protect him. In that strafing a number of soldiers perished. That a general was willing to endanger the lives of his men—as it was, 45 soldiers died in the rescue of the Dos Palmas hostages—so he could get 50 percent of the ransom money is something I'm not ready to believe. There is corruption in the military as in the civilian agencies, but to be corrupt over blood money?

* * *

Reports say Sen. Edgardo Angara, chair of the Senate committee on constitutional reforms and electoral amendments, is poised to report on the floor early next week the resolution he filed together with Senators Aquilino Pimentel and Robert Barbers, seeking to amend the Constitution through a constituent assembly. Angara needs eight votes out of a committee membership of 14 to report it out, and I hope he gets the number, for this would bring this crucial issue to the Senate floor for debates instead of in the media. I wouldn't be surprised if the debates bring out the two or three additional Senate votes needed to convene an assembly. The senators should welcome those debates.

* * *

For such a draconian decision as the Supreme Court's to wrest a $650-million Terminal 3 project from a private company whose owners spent their entire fortune and private funds and those of foreign investors on it, one would expect great and shocking reasons. But as a lawyer who read the decision on Piatco put it, the lead argument for voiding the contract was that the bidder did not have the "financial capacity" required in the bidding. But what an argument to raise when the project has long been 98-percent complete and there was no lack of private funds. What better proof of capacity to pay than that? Moreover, records show that the government bidding committee qualified Piatco to bid.

* * *

The other reasons the Court cited for its decision are trivial, e.g., that the fees for vehicular parking spaces in the terminal had been modified. The impression of some lawyers who read the decision is that the Court had to go from one strained argument to another to justify its very harsh decision. One lawyer noted that ponente Reynato Puno was so occupied in looking for justifications to annul the Piatco contract that he even forgot to mention the most basic rule in the confiscation of private property: it must be paid on the ground that no one should enrich himself at the expense of another. Thus, a concurring justice had to call attention to the fact that the decision said nothing about what to do with the project after the contracts were annulled.

* * *

I queried Piatco lawyer Liwayway Vinzons-Chato about the main argument questioning Piatco's financial capacity, and she said it does not make sense. The one who should have questioned was the losing bidder, Asian Emerging Dragons Corp., she said. She noted that at the time of the bid, AEDC had put up only P150 million, whereas, in the course of the project, Piatco succeeded in paying the P3 billion required capitalization in full. Chato stressed that the Piatco contract was approved by all seven members of the highest approving authority in government, the Neda-Investment Coordinating Council chaired by the president (in this case ex-President Estrada). She insisted that nullifying the contracts was "bad faith on the GMA administration's part."

I asked Chato what she had to say about the news that now the government is asking Piatco to sit down and talk instead of filing a motion for reconsideration. She replied, "*Ano pa ang pag-uusapan?*"

Mothers of Alabel

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

LET me tell you about two mothers I met recently in Barangay Alegria, Alabel, Saranggani Province. I joined a group of media people invited by the Management Sciences for Health (MSH), an NGO providing technical assistance to the Department of Health and local governments for the Matching Grants Program, to witness the launching of a comprehensive program of health services, including the provision of non-scalpel vasectomy for men in the village.

We had driven for almost three hours from General Santos City to Alabel, down a dusty rough path to Barangay Alegria where we found the village folk gathered beneath a bright blue plastic awning facing a makeshift stage. On one side of the clearing was the one-room health center where babies were undergoing immunization and pregnant women were receiving pre-natal care. On the other side, three doctors were performing NSVs in a private home.

The scene reminded me of a barrio wedding, with families sitting in clusters, mothers shushing their wailing babies, children running around, and volunteer health workers helping weigh babies, distribute medicines and round up the men who had signed up for the vasectomies. And no, there was no wailing or even moaning heard from the house where the vasectomies were being performed.

By the time our group arrived, the doctors had already "vasectomized" nine men, and some were already up and about, sticking around and waiting for the program to start. None of the men objected to talking about their experience, and most seemed eager to share their surprise and relief about how quick and painless was the procedure. And that was how I met Stella Juanite and her husband Nilo, or Dodoy.

* * *

STELLA, 37, is a schoolteacher, while Dodoy, 38 works as a baker. They have two children, a girl, 8, and a boy, 5. The Juanites seem the ideal candidate-couple for a vasectomy. Stella related that soon after the birth of her first child, she had used an IUD for two years. "But I was feeling cramps and discomfort," she recalls, "so I went to the health center to have it removed." A few months later, she got pregnant with her second child.

Unfortunately, Stella could not be prescribed oral contraceptives or injectables because of her diabetes and hypertension. So for five years, they were relying on withdrawal, even if, as Stella herself admits, "I was always afraid of getting pregnant." The prospect filled her with dread. "I don't want another child. I'm so afraid I might die if this one (pointing to her young son clinging to the hem of her dress) is followed."

Which is why, when Marita Rosaot, a barangay health worker, approached them and asked if Dodoy might want to consider a vasectomy, Stella worked on convincing her husband.

"I always talk to the wife first," confides Marita, an energetic middle-aged woman who proudly proclaims that she has been a BHW in Alabel for 24 years. "I know it's usually the wife who wants to practice family planning. Once you convince the wife, she will be the one to convince the husband."

Given Stella's health problems, it didn't take much to convince Dodoy of the wisdom of his taking on the responsibility for planning his family. Even Stella's mother wholeheartedly approved of the decision, telling her daughter it was all for her own good.

It was Stella who had reservations, primarily, she said, "if Dodoy would still have the strength and the ability," for what is none of our business. "But I asked around and talked with women whose husbands already had vasectomies and they assured me that nothing would change except that I would no longer get pregnant."

So how did she feel after her husband's 10-minute NSV? "At ease *na ako*," she said, smiling. "*Wala nang kaba* (No more fears)."

* * *

PRESENT at the launching ceremonies were local officials and health officials, all of them men. Mayor Narciso Rasa spoke on how happy he was to now be able to look after most of the basic health needs of his constituents, while regional health director Dr. Roger Chua, provincial health officer Dr. Tony Larana and municipal health officer Dr. Honorato Fabio emphasized the health aspects of family planning. Dr. Jose Rodriguez, "chief of party" of MSH, expressed the wish to be able to reach out more effectively to the indigenous peoples in Saranggani (whose population is about 60 percent "IPs") who are underserved not just in health but in most basic services.

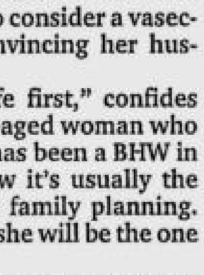
As the program ended, I stopped one of the mothers and asked if she would talk with me awhile. Her name was Jocelyn, and she was carrying her daughter, Ficheri.

Jocelyn is 21, while Ficheri, her first child, is six months old. A high school graduate, Jocelyn is the sixth of 11 children and says she knew "how hard it is to have a big family." Her husband, too, is one of 11 children, so both of them are determined to practice family planning. Right now, she's still breast-feeding Ficheri so she isn't using any method, but plans to avail herself of injectables.

What about a vasectomy for her husband? "Actually, he said he's willing to have it, but only after we have one more child, preferably a boy. But he told me that even if our second child is still a girl, he will have a vasectomy already."

Ficheri, who was born on Jocelyn's birthday, is clearly the center of Jocelyn's world right now. But Jocelyn's dreams for her daughter remain simple. "I want her to have an education. Even if it is only two years of vocational, although my dream for her is really to be a teacher. I saw the TV ad of Pampers (a brand of disposable diapers) that said they'll give scholarships to lucky babies. I hope Ficheri will be one of them." But just by having Jocelyn as her mother, Ficheri is already one lucky girl.

A tribe called Tiruray



SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

FOUND along the west coast of Mindanao and divided from the Manobos by the Tran River, the land was fairly wooded, mountainous. There were several rivers—Matabal, Tibuan and Malabacao—with many brooks and streams.

The Tirurays called themselves Dulangan, while the Muslims referred to them as Manobos. In 1904 there were at the most 3,000 of them, divided into *cafeduans* or tribes. The principal one, south of the Tibuan River, consisting of 80 families, was under Amaneacul. Another tribe beyond Riza Bay, comprising 66 families, was under Melenoyao. Endugan's tribe at Cusiang had 80 families. There were 38 tribes in all. The nearest male relative of the last chief inherited the title of *cafeduan*.

The women wore their hair piled high and tied into a knot, with a fringe on their forehead. Their lips were broad and voluptuous. They perforated their ears with seven holes in order to make them longer and the holes were kept open by small pieces of wire. Their nails were ornamented with dots, and around their legs, they wore a *hmut tawi*, made from imported fabrics since they did not weave, that were red, blue or striped. Their upper garment was called *caggal*, a short, tight coat barely reaching the waist. On their right shoulder, they draped the *ommut* which reached almost to their feet.

Numerous bracelets were worn tight around their arms as well as extraordinary belts of brass twisted in spirals of 12 or 15 turns. Bracelets were also made of brass coil with small bells at the end and ornamented with incised patterns. Large and heavy brass anklets were worn and occasionally rings of white shell on their left hand.

The most typical female ornament was an elaborate neck decoration made of strings of glass beads and shells which supported a small case for *tarrau* and was suspended from one ear to the other under the chin. Earrings matched the necklace and were in the form of a small triangle from which hung beads and shells.

Teeth were filed and artificial teeth made by the local blacksmith from brass, silver or wood (depending, one imagines, on their wealth) were fitted. Teeth were sometimes filed to the gum and two holes drilled into them with a nail or the point of a knife. A new set of teeth was then inserted by two corresponding wedges into the holes of the original teeth.

Musical instruments consisted of a bamboo cylinder with nine strings from the fiber of the bamboo itself and flutes with six holes. The drums consisted of hard, black wood carved into a semi-oval or a cylinder of bamboo with skin stretched at one end with a hole in the center to prevent splitting. Drumsticks were of soft wood gaily ornamented with grooves, rings, triangles and semicircles as well as dots stained red.

Women's dances consisted of slow contortions, the hand revolving in a circle while fingers were held straight. The feet tapped the ground, keeping time with the music and bent to the right or left.

Their houses were situated on hillsides or steep and difficult slopes. They were perched on piles 15 feet high and access was through pole-ladders which were brought up at night. The roofs were of nipa or cogon, with the sides left open. The *cafeduan's* house naturally occupied a central location and from his house signals of meetings or alarms were given to the tribe with an *agun* or drum. Bamboo cylinders were used to convey water to the houses.

They cultivated a few crops along the slopes, planting them among charred tree stumps and using the ashes of the burnt forest as fertilizer. Large areas had already been denuded because the Tiruray did not plant in the same place continuously but moved from place to place. The men might have cleared the land, but it was the women who did the planting as a rule.

Mainly they planted camote, rice, corn, onions, pumpkins, papayas and tobacco, but all in small quantities. Roots were used extensively for food and they even used a root called *crut* that was intoxicating when eaten raw.

They did a little trading in rubber, honey, baskets and mats which they bartered with the Chinese and Manobos for silk, beads brass rings, brass wire, shirts, knives, spears points and trinkets.

Intermarriage contributed greatly to the weakening of the Tirurays. Whoever married a Filipino or a Muslim had to leave the tribe in disgrace and could not return. A girl could live with her lover before marriage but faithfulness was a requirement afterwards. Old men could also exercise their rights over young girls who had reached the age of puberty.

One would find small altars or shrines to spirits scattered in the area. Heaven was reserved for Tirurays entirely and hell for non-Tirurays in general, especially the Muslims. Rather than pray to God, the Tirurays prayed to devils and evil spirits in order to pacify them. They had their form of *babailans* as well called *billians* who would sing and dance to God, naked except for a loin cloth. In a trance, they would predict the future but curiously enough, the Tirurays did not set much store by their predictions.

(From A. Henry Savage Landor's "An Eastern Gem," 1904)

* * *

Erratum: In the May 6 column, "...the late Bobby Greenwood some of you might have known him" should have read "some of you might have known her."

All about Mama

YOUNG BLOOD

Nonie Tobias

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

MAMA is the ultimate cry-baby. She cries over just about anything imaginably sad. Sad movies and telenovelas make her cry. Birthday tributes to celebrities make her cry. Her children make her cry.

The first time I saw Mama cry over something other than show-biz matters was when my younger sister got pregnant. It was Mother's Day, the morning after she found out about it. We were doing our usual jogging routine when all of a sudden, she just burst out crying.

She asked me if she had been a good mother, and if she had, how come her daughter got entangled in the kind of mess parents feared most for their children. Then, she revealed other things that had never ever occurred to me, including her near separation from Papa and her frustration over not being able to pursue her dreams because Papa didn't want her to work.

For the first time in my 19 years on this planet, I saw not my Mama, but a mother. I felt her struggle to be a good mother and the pain of realizing that maybe, she hadn't done a good job after all.

Five months after my break-up from the former love of my life, I was still devastated. One night, I climbed up to the roof of the house, three floors above the ground, to breathe some fresh air into my shriveled soul.

Papa panicked when he found me there—*kala niya ata magsu-suicide ako*. Mama was crying: *Ba't daw kasi ang aga kong na*-in-love. She did not need to know about the gory details, but I knew my mother felt my pain.

When I told Mama that I was graduating cum laude, she hugged me tight and cried. Then she said, "Thank you, *anak!*" over and over again and cried some more. At that time, our family was in deep financial and emotional s—t, and my news was the best she had heard for some time.

Some time ago, she literally sobbed and hugged me tight and thanked me after I handed over the money she was borrowing to pay for something. Maybe out of extreme gratefulness—or self pity. Or both.

Mama cries more openly now—sometimes even during dinner, in front of everybody else. And every time she cries, I cry too. If there's one thing that brings tears to my eyes, it's seeing my mother crying.

One time, during an interview with a major ad agency, the HR officer asked me to tell something about my family. When I came to the part about my mom, I wasn't able to keep the tears from falling. *Nakakahiya!*

You see the effect she has on me? My mother is one of the few people who touch me.

But you should hear her laughter. She laughs like there's no tomorrow. She laughs as if she has never known sadness. Her laughter never fails to make my day.

My mother is not your average mom or your regular housewife. Yes, she is a superwoman, but I think most mothers are. Yes, she nags like most mothers do and her temper sucks. But there are things she does and things she did that make her a one-of-a-kind mom.

When I was but a scrawny little girl, I was sickly. Every now and then, I had to absent myself from class for reasons ranging from asthmatic bronchitis to hepatitis A to a torn forehead. But never missed any lesson or assignment. Always, I aced my exams even if I was not present a week before the tests. Always, I passed my projects and assignments on time even if I was not around when the teacher gave them out. And that's because Mama was there, sitting on my chair and making notes on my notebook.

Whenever exam week was coming, my mother would lovingly make mock tests in all my subjects just to be sure we were ready and we would get high (not satisfactory) grades.

She has been a patient and hardworking mother.

And not many mothers can fix a leaking pipe, build wooden nests for the birds and drive a car with their eyes closed. My mom can do all these things like a pro.

But she also has the amazing ability to forget where she puts her things, particularly her eyeglasses. She has the memory of a goldfish.

Now, I'm not sickly anymore, but wherever I am, Mama still shows the same love and concern she has shown when I was small, making me feel like I was 7 instead of 23. I may not be my mother's favorite child (her favorite is her *balong*, my 20-year-old brother), but I know she loves me just as much.

At 47, Mama is still pretty and charming (many say that I got my looks from her, wink, wink), though her face is filled with the lines and creases that come with age and probably exhaustion. Sometimes when she really gets frustrated and mad, she threatens to just give up and go home to her parents in Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija. Sometimes I am afraid that one day she just might make good her threat.

Despite all that, deep in my heart I know my mother has great love for us, maybe even more than for her life—even if we often make fun of her Ilocano accent.

Nonie Tobias, 23, works as a copywriter for an advertising agency. She says she was already misty-eyed before she finished writing this piece.

THEY SAID

Profiteering

"This is a national emergency and this situation shouldn't be used for profit."

—Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye, reacting to reports that masks to fight Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome were being sold at triple the price

SARS cover-up

"No mere minister of health or Beijing mayor would have the courage or power to hide this kind of information. Their recent dismissal was the usual story: Lower officials are scapegoats for high-level irresponsibility."

—Chinese dissident Wei Jing-sheng, criticizing China's cover-up of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome crisis

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Smashing the sacred cows

I WRITE because I am pleasantly surprised that one government official has actually improved my family's and my neighbors' lives. As a commuter from Ever Gotesco to the University of the Philippines along Commonwealth Avenue, my travel time has been cut from 45 minutes to 15 due to the discarding of left turns and traffic lights and the provision of U-turn slots.

Previous Metro Manila Development Authority officials only put more and more *"tagakaway"* (maybe a dozen at a time) to absolutely no avail—just more and more people doing less and less.

Another stunning occurrence is the demolition, after 10 years of futile starts and stops, of illegal structures and beer joints along the UP fence fronting the MWSS building. Police and political coddling had rendered these illegals almost above the law. Now Bayani Fernando's boys have done the job.

I have, like many others, acquired the cynical attitude that the government only serves to degrade our lives every time it acts to help us. Fernando shows it is possible for public officials actually to do more than hang their banners in front of the Iglesia ni Cristo and rule the road in Ford Explorers bought at our expense.

Is Fernando an aberration? That partly depends on us.

The fundamental lesson we can learn from Fernando is that real reforms are painful and to do lasting good, you have to smash some sacred cows. These sacred cows can and do gore reformers (e.g. Rene Bañez formerly of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and Vitaliano Nañagas formerly of the Social Security System). Our duty is to form the public ramparts around focal reformers.

Kudos, B.F. We are solidly behind, in front and around you.

—RAUL V. FABELLA,
dean, UP School of Economics,
Diliman, Quezon City

Who should amend the Charter?

CHARTER change has been an issue since 1997 during the end-run of the Ramos administration. The massive opposition at that time marked the few policy defeats of that administration.

During the late, unlamented Estrada presidency, the matter was floated again, producing an outpouring of resentment that ultimately led to the shelving of the idea.

The people are wary of traditional politicians tinkering with the Constitution. They see it as self-serving and self-aggrandizing. The present move by Danding Cojuangco's NPC, Speaker Jose de Venecia's Lakas and Sen. Edgardo Angara's LDP to convene a constituent assembly is widely seen as another such attempt.

This is not to say that the Constitution does not need reforming. However, the key question now is: Who will do the honors? Is it the people, through delegates elected for the purpose, or is it the legislators who were not elected for the purpose?

A constitutional convention with delegates directly elected by the people is a big step toward allaying the fears of the people, unlike a constituent assembly which is clouded by doubts. A constituent assembly would negate the very purpose of Charter reform, which is to broaden people's participation in governance. There must be genuine transparency in such a process.

A constitutional convention will cast away all the fears and doubts that have marred present attempts to reform our Constitution.

—RAMON CASIPLE,
executive director
Institute for Political and Electoral Reform,
262 15th Avenue, Barangay Silangan,
Cubao, Quezon City

Irresponsible behavior after SARS

LAST April 23, while watching "TV Patrol," I couldn't believe that reporter Doris Bigornia was complaining about the way she had been treated at the St. Luke's Hospital.

Bigornia had been to Alcala, Pangasinan, interviewing the relatives and neighbors of Adela Catalon who just died of SARS. After this, she and her crew went to St. Luke's for a check-up. They barged into the hospital complex, arrogantly demanding immediate attention with their cameraman in tow taking a video of the entire scene. She was complaining that the staff of St. Luke's was not giving them proper attention and checking them up for possible SARS infection. Didn't she realize that they could have been carriers of the dread disease, and could have spread the virus to whoever they came in contact with?

Such action smacked of irresponsibility, insensitivity and callousness. In fact it was criminal, if you ask me.

The hospital staff was probably stunned into immobility by her antics, if not the TV camera lights. Even if Bigornia and her crew were found to be SARS-free, there was that risk that they could have been infected, and could have spread the virus among an unsuspecting public. What she and her crew should have done was to quarantine themselves, preferably in Pangasinan. If they started showing signs of possible SARS, then they should have called the hospital so the staff could prepare and isolate them immediately upon arrival. You just don't go barging into hospitals unannounced, demanding to be checked for SARS, unmindful of the possibility that you are already spreading the virus to the staff and to the other patients and guests of the hospital.

Such idiocy.

—LILIA B. PANGILINAN,
8347 Doroteo Jose,
Sta. Cruz, Manila

Tests proved no overprice in PDMB construction

I WRITE in reaction to your editorial last May 2, 2003 which, I feel, unfairly distorted and casts in an unfavorable light the recent Commission on Audit report which concluded that the construction of the President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard (PDMB) was not overpriced.

In particular, the editorial's statement that "if a section of road cost almost six times more to build than another portion of the same road, the only logical conclusion anyone can possibly reach is that the first part must have been grossly overpriced" grossly oversimplified the issues, and callously disregarded the analysis which the Commission on Audit special team must have done prior to arriving at its conclusion. While I am sure the COA is capable of explaining itself, I feel constrained to address the misleading aspects of the editorial.

The COA report sufficiently explained the difference in the prices of the road segments when it recognized that JD Legaspi had to do more work to attain the required soil consolidation and stability. This fact should have been sufficient to explain the difference in price.

The editorial, however, refused to accept this, and instead asked why, if the soil conditions were indeed unstable, the nearby GSIS building showed no sign of sinking. This is a non sequitur. The fact is that the COA team, together with the Bureau of Research and Standards of the DPWH, performed borehole tests on the Legaspi portion, which confirmed that the contractor followed the specifications required for the road and the quantities and quality of materials. Thus, there was no overprice. No one can disregard the results of these tests unless he can show that they were erroneous or improperly conducted.

The Cavite Coastal Road was rushed without the proper soil consolidation, with the result that in a very short time the road deteriorated and had to be upgraded at an even greater cost. Also, the GSIS was built on pilings, hence its failure to sink.

The editorial also described the PDMB as the country's most expensive road, when that distinction belongs to the Cebu South Coastal Road (CSCR), which, like the PDMB, was built on reclaimed land. In fact, on a per square meter basis, the CSCR which was shorter than the PDMB, and which had only six lanes to the latter's eight, cost twice (P22,121.64 as against P11,563.24). I therefore cannot understand why the PDMB has been unceasingly attacked by the media, even as the CSCR has escaped criticism.

It is not true that the COA report means that the sky is the limit with regard to change orders. PD 1594 provides such a limit. Precisely, the reason why the COA team found the change orders to be regular was because these limits had not been violated.

This controversy has received more than its share of publicity. Inasmuch as the appropriate cases have been filed before the Ombudsman, I wish that the media would wait for justice to take its course.

—ERNESTO F.O. VILLAREAL,
former chair, Public Estates Authority,
2982 Mahogany St., United Parañaque
Subdivision II, Parañaque City

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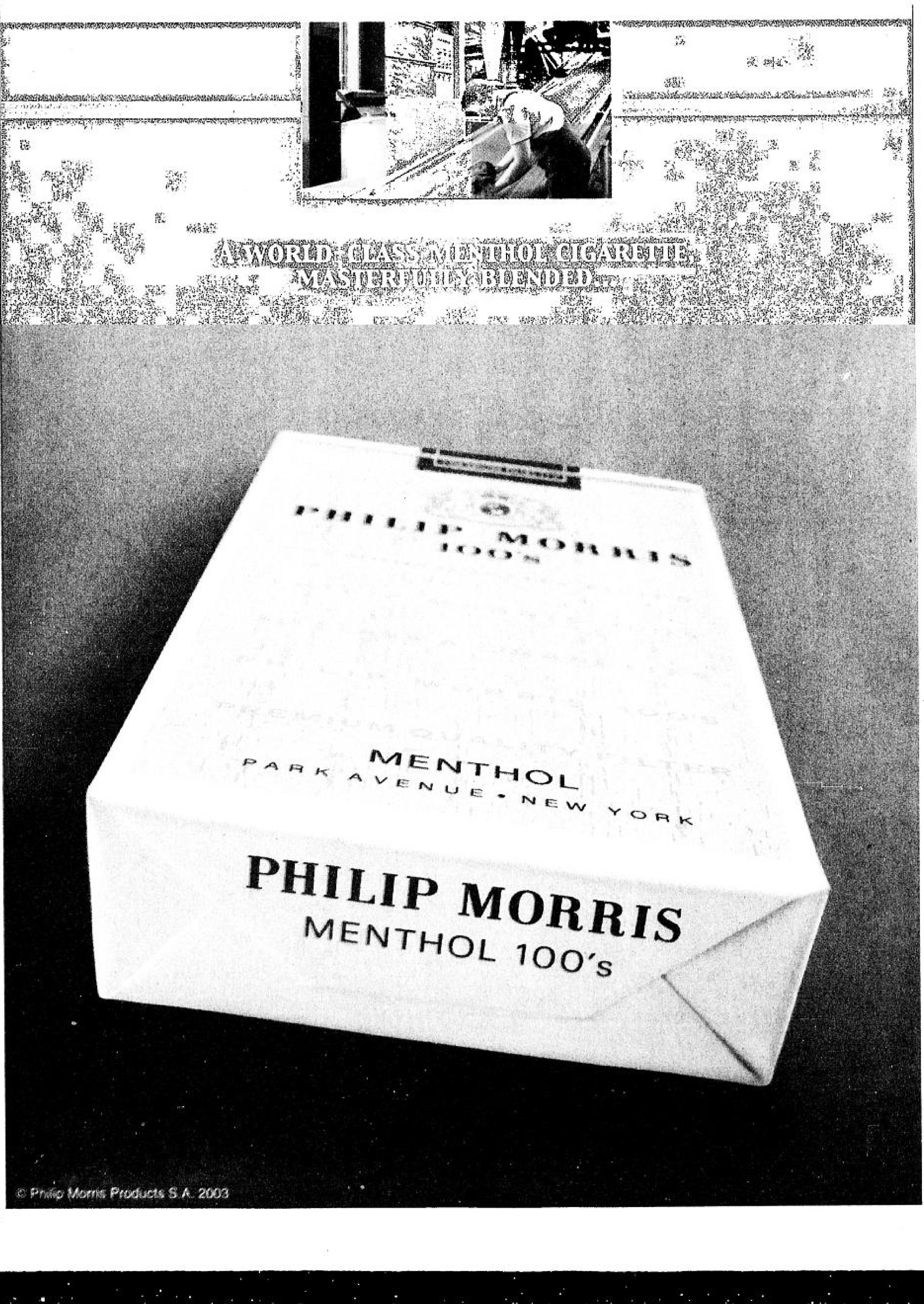

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

UN seeks okay to control Iraq oil

UNITED NATIONS—The United States and Britain introduced a resolution on Friday that would end 12 years of UN sanctions against Iraq and give them control of the country's oil revenues for at least a year.

The tough resolution that in effect relegates the United Nations and other international institutions to an advisory role with little power, would phase out over four months the existing UN oil-for-food humanitarian program.

The United States and Britain, who sponsored the measure along with Spain, want a vote by June 3, when that program, which gives the United Nations control over the oil revenues, needs to be renewed.

Without adoption of the resolution, no Iraqi, US or UN entity in Baghdad has the legal authority to export oil.

The Bush administration is counting on approval from Russia, France, China and Germany, who had the strongest anti-war position in the 15-member body, with officials saying there was little enthusiasm for another bruising fight.

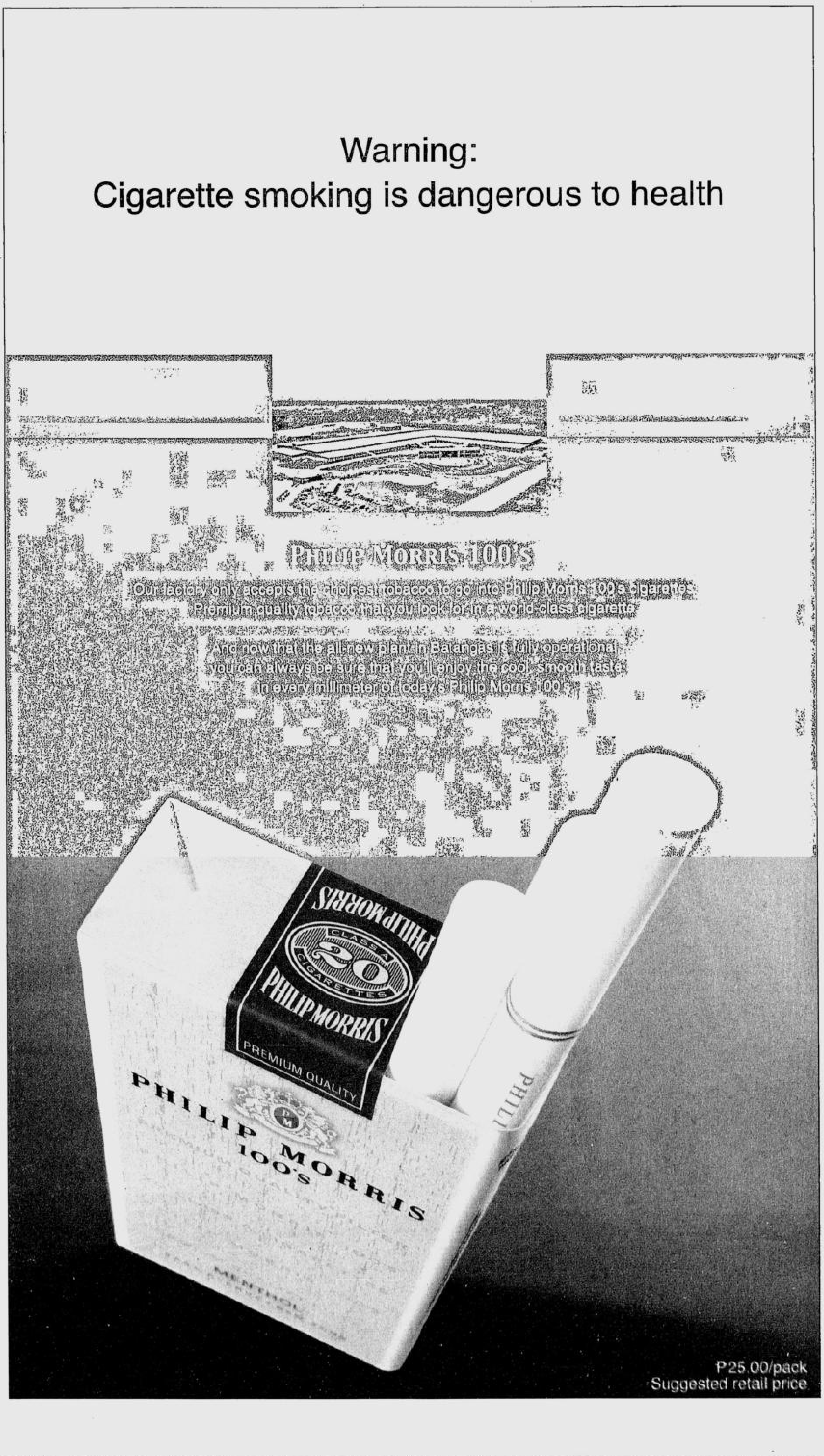
Nevertheless, the text, which two senior council diplomats called "hard" and "in your face," will probably face amendments from France and Russia, who have favored suspending the sanctions but leaving some control with the United Nations until an Iraqi government is established.

And nearly every council member, including Britain, had wanted to send UN weapons inspectors back to Iraq, as called for as in at least 16 resolutions as a condition for lifting the sanctions, imposed when Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

But the draft resolution ignores any such requirement.

The US proposal, endorsed by Britain and Spain, would deposit Iraqi oil revenues in an "Iraqi Assistance Fund" for humanitarian and reconstruction purposes, to be held by the Iraqi Central Bank, currently managed by Peter McPherson, a former deputy US Treasury secretary.

The new Assistance Fund would have an advisory board that would include officials appointed by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan as well as the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and others. This group would audit expenditures. *Reuters*



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KREMIL - S
SUSP 250 ML
REG PRICE P 144.00
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KREMIL - S
TAB
REG PRICE
P 3.25
PAY ONLY 3.00

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TAB 20
REG PRICE
P 65.00
PAY ONLY 60.00

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PAY ONLY 43.75

ENERVON C PLUS 120 ML
REG PRICE P 86.00
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P 4,85
PAY ONLY 4.70

ENERVON C
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India won't match Pakistan offer to destroy nuke arms

NEW DELHI, India—India declined Pakistan's offer for mutual destruction of nuclear arsenals, but the Indian prime minister said ahead of talks with a ranking US official Saturday that his country is seeking "friendship" with its South Asian neighbor.

The nuclear disarmament offer came from Pakistan's foreign minister earlier in the week as part of a series of goodwill gestures starting with plans to exchange ambassadors as a first step toward improving relations.

Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage, who is in the region to encourage the fence-mending, met with Pakistani leaders Thursday and was scheduled to travel Friday to India for talks with leaders the following day. He praised both Islamabad and New Delhi for their efforts at reconciliation.

"I don't think it's useful for me to point a finger at India or for that matter to blame Pakistan for what's going on. We're in a situation that's been brought about by 50-odd years of history," Armitage said, denying that Washington was pressuring either side to improve relations.

Relations between the neighbors—who have fought three wars since independence from Britain in 1947—hit bottom last summer. The sides sent hundreds of thousands of troops to their frontier after New Delhi accused Islamabad of backing a suicide attack on India's Parliament in December 2001. Pakistan denied involvement.

Since the Parliament attack, Vajpayee had insisted New Delhi would not resume dialogue with Islamabad until it ended the infiltration of Islamic militants across the ceasefire line that divides Kashmir between India and Pakistan.

Guerrillas have been fighting since 1989 for Kashmir's independence or the merger of India's only Muslim-majority state with Islamic Pakistan. More than 63,000 people have been killed in separatist violence.

Armitage, after his talks with Pakistani leaders Thursday, said Pakistan had assured him that the infiltration had declined. India has long accused Pakistan of training the militants. Islamabad denies aiding the militants, saying the mountainous frontier is impossible to seal.

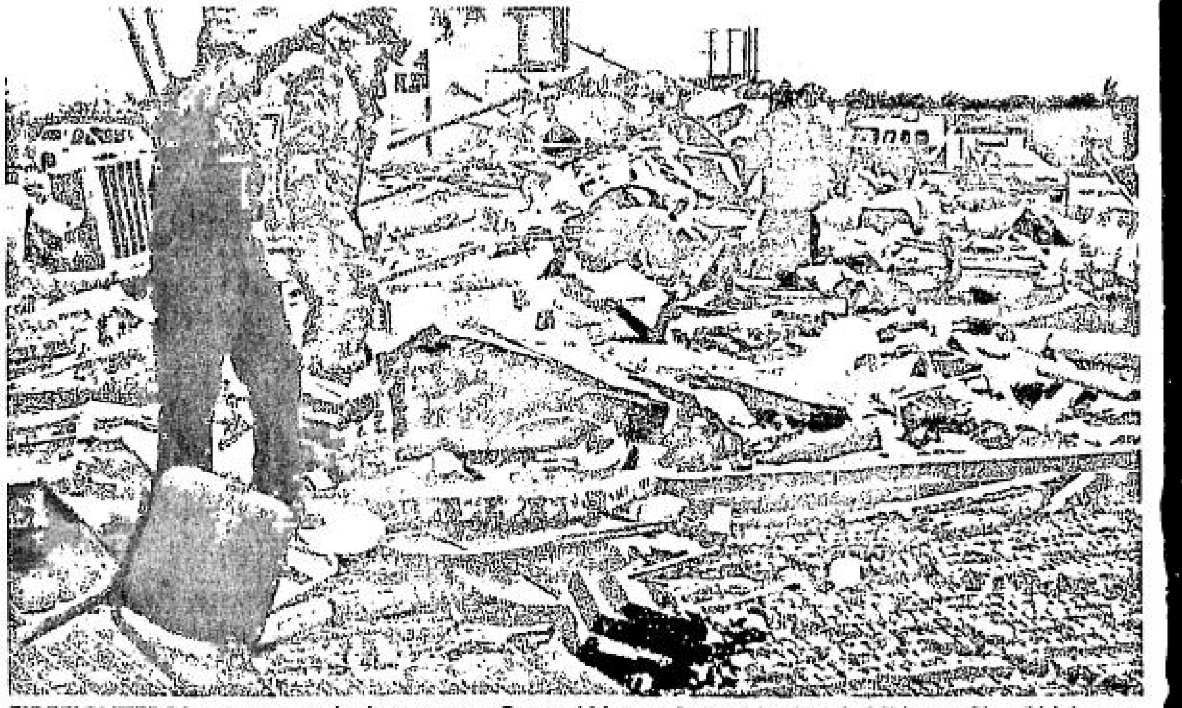
Armitage also said that President Pervez Musharraf assured him that Pakistan would not allow the militants to have camps in the section of Kashmir that it controls.

In rejecting the Pakistani offer for mutual nuclear disarmament, Vajpayee said Pakistan had only one target for its nuclear weapons—India—while New Delhi had built its arsenal to counter threats from other countries as well.

"We are seeking friendship with Pakistan, but we will be cautious," Vajpayee told Parliament during a debate on the peace overtures between the South Asian rivals.

"I have told the Pakistani leaders that India and Pakistan have to live together," he said. "We can change friends, but we can't change neighbors."

Besides the three wars with Pakistan, India also fought a border war with China in 1962, although relations are warming between New Delhi and Beijing. *AP*


FIREFIGHTERS inspect tornado damage to a General Motors Assembly plant in Midwest City, Oklahoma, after a tornado ripped through Moore, Del City and Midwest City, Oklahoma on May 8. REUTERS

Tornado rips Oklahoma City, injures 103

MOORE, Oklahoma—A tornado tore through the Oklahoma City suburb of Moore on Thursday, smashing through buildings, snapping power-line poles and injuring more than 100 people, authorities said.

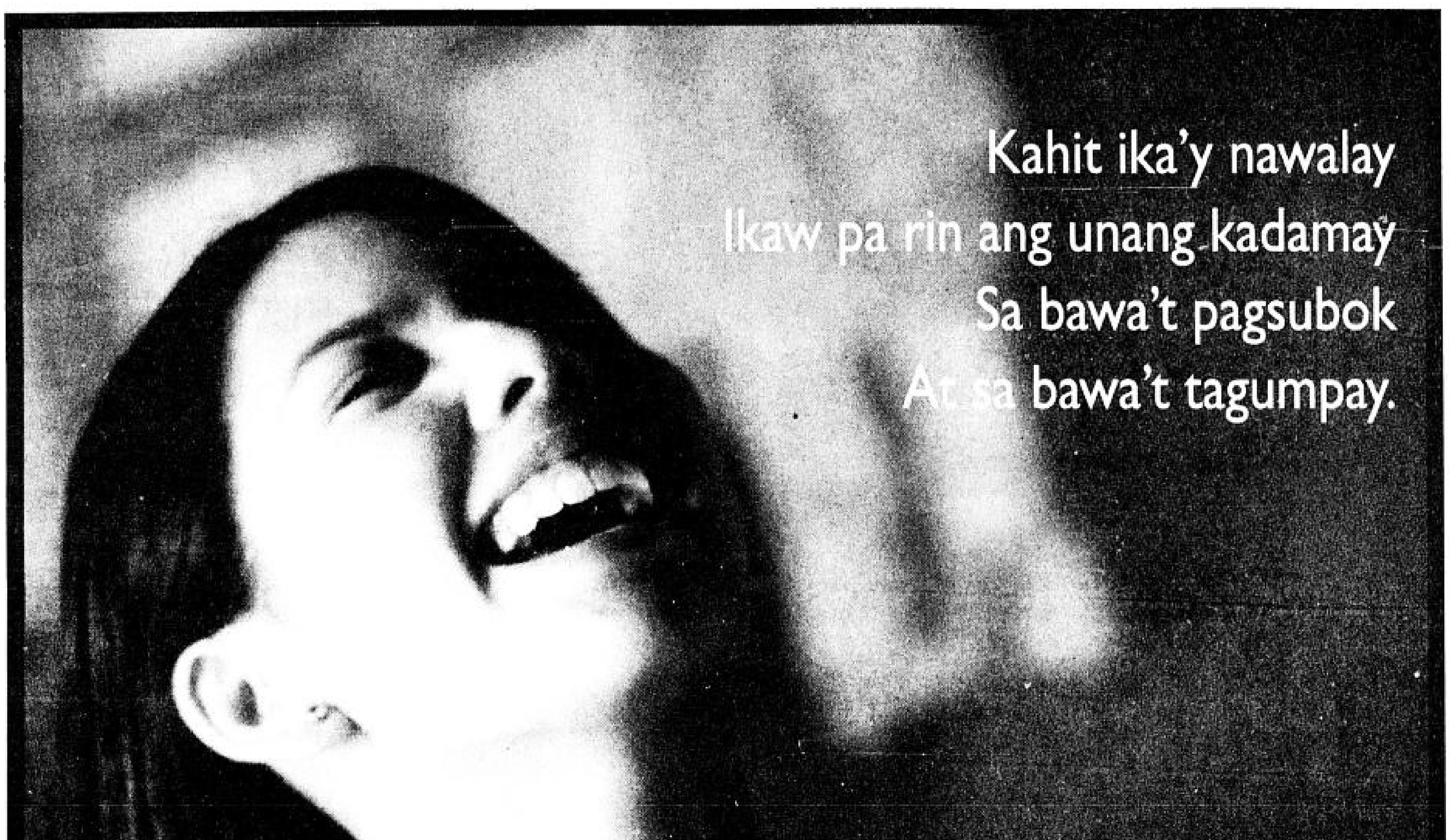
"The best news is that there are no confirmed fatalities," Oklahoma Gov. Brad Henry said.

He said the tornado damaged about 1,500 homes and destroyed at least 300 of them in a part of the country dubbed "tornado alley" because of the frequency of the storms.

Rescue officials said at least 103 people were injured, including 12 who sustained serious or critical injuries.

Tornadoes have already killed 42 people in other states, including Missouri, Kansas, Tennessee and Illinois, this week.

The tornado touched down in Moore, about 24 km south of Oklahoma City at about 5:17 p.m. local time (1817 EDT (2217 GMT). Suburban dwellings toppled like houses of cards, a bank was destroyed and restaurant left in ruins. *Reuters*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Para kay Jenny Santos, ang ate niyang nasa London ang laging una niyang takbuhan.
Kasi sa ilang minuto lang, nakapagpapadala na ito ng tuition sa tulong ng Western Union.

Parang si Ate mismo ang nag-abot kaya panatag ang loob nilang dalawa. At ngayong nagtapos na si Jenny, si Ate rin ang unang makakatanggap ng magandang balita!

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Mountaineer broke bone, cut arm off to save his life

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo.—A mountaineer facing death after being pinned by a 360-kg boulder in the Utah desert said on Thursday he had to break his arm bone before he could cut the limb off with a dull knife.

Aron Ralston, 27, said in the beginning of his five-day ordeal he threw his body against the rock to free himself and then tried to chip away at it before realizing his only chance to live was to cut off his arm.

"At no point was I ever able to get the boulder to budge even microscopically," Ralston told reporters at St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Junction, Colorado, where he is recuperating.

Ralston was rescued Thursday last week after cutting off his right arm, then rappelling down a canyon and hiking about 9.7 km before he came across two Dutch hikers. He was airlifted to hospital.

After three days of being stuck and after having eaten the last few crumbs in a candy bar wrapping, he decided to amputate his right arm.

But he made little progress. He started sawing back and forth with his pocket knife to no avail. The knife was so dull that he could not even cut the hair on his arm.

Two days later he realized he had to do something while he was still coherent. "It was the last opportunity I would have and still have the physical strength to get out," he said.

"It occurred to me I could break my bones," he said as his mother, who was near tears, sat by his side.

First the radius snapped just above his wrist. He kept twisting his arm and a few minutes later the ulna broke. The whole process, including setting out bandages and first aid supplies, took about an hour.

He said all he could do was endure the pain. "I felt pain and I coped with it." *Reuters*

WORLDBRIEFS

Iran's nuke program

WASHINGTON—US President George W. Bush said Thursday he was "concerned" by reports Iran is allegedly accelerating its nuclear weapons program, and restated his commitment to stop proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

"I've always expressed my concerns that the Iranians may be developing a nuclear program—I have done so publicly, I have done so privately," Bush told reporters at the White House after meeting Qatari Emir Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al-Tani. *AFP*

Sharon praises Abbas

JERUSALEM—Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon praised new reformist Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas on Thursday as a "partner" for peace and said he was ready to revive negotiations with Syria.

The right-wing Sharon presented himself as keen on diplomacy to settle Israeli-Arab conflicts after Palestinians accused him of trying to stymie a new US-backed "road map" plan envisaging a Palestinian state to defuse an uprising against Israel. *Reuters*

Uganda, Rwanda to end feud

LONDON—The leaders of African rivals Rwanda and Uganda promised on Thursday to work to end a feud which has unsettled peace efforts in Congo and fueled turmoil in Africa's Great Lakes region.

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni and Rwanda's Paul Kagame promised after talks in London aimed at reconciling the former close allies to seek "complete normalization" in their relations.

Ties between the two military powers are central to the future of the Lakes region, still devastated by the 1994 Rwanda genocide and subsequent years of conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo. *Reuters*

160 believed killed when plane door opens in flight

KINSHASA—Some 160 people were presumed dead in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) when a door on a Soviet-era plane burst open in mid-flight, plunging them 2,200 meters to the ground, military sources said Friday.

Forty people, including the Russian crew of the Ilyushin-76 transport plane, survived the accident, which occurred Thursday night about halfway through a flight from the capital Kinshasa in the west to the southeastern city of Lubumbashi.

The pilot was able to turn the aged aircraft around and land at Kinshasa airport following the accident.

This model of the Ilyushin-76 has a large rear cargo door that runs for roughly the length of the tail along the belly of the fuselage.

Members of the DRC's rapid intervention police force and their families were among the flight's passengers.

The accident was only reported Friday morning after the victims' relatives had been informed of the tragedy, the officials said.

An investigation has been launched to determine the cause of the accident.

But a government statement read out later on state television said there had been no casualties.

Congo's Minister for Peace, Vital Kamerhe, confirmed that a cargo door had opened in mid-flight and that there was some damage, but did not give any more details.

The government said the army would take journalists to Kinshasa airport to see the plane, which had been chartered by the Congolese army to fly from the capital to Lubumbashi.

Officials said it was common for the army and the government to charter cargo planes to transport military personnel and civil servants, often with their families, between Kinshasa and Lubumbashi—Congo's second biggest city and home to a big military base.

The four-engined Ilyushin 76 is a versatile transport aircraft widely used in Africa, the Middle East, India and China, and remains in service despite its age because of the shortage of cargo aircraft worldwide.

Accidents involving airplanes are frequent in the DRC. The most deadly dates back to January 1996, when the Russian crew of an Antonov cargo plane had to abort a take-off from Kinshasa airport because the aircraft was overloaded.

Traveling at high speed, the plane plowed into a busy market that had been set up illegally just off the runway. *AFP, Reuters*

'Bali bombing was meant to be declaration of war on US, allies'

JAKARTA—A 13-member group staged the Bali bombings as a declaration of war against the United States and its allies in revenge for oppression of Muslims worldwide, the indictment against one suspect says.

Amrozi—whose trial starts next Monday—faces four charges of terrorism punishable by death, according to a copy of his indictment obtained Friday.

The 33-page document describes in chilling detail how Amrozi and 12 others, including two of his brothers, allegedly slaughtered 202 people in the worst terrorist attack since the Sept. 11 strikes.

Amrozi, a mechanic from a small Indonesian village, will be the first suspect to face a court in the resort island's capital Denpasar over the bombings, which are blamed on the Jemaah Islamiyah regional terror group.

The blasts "resulted in terror on a wide scale" and destroyed 424 buildings, including the two targeted nightspots in the Kuta tourist district.

The indictment confirms previous accounts by investigators, who have more than 30 suspects in custody. Several are not believed to have played a direct role in the blasts.

It says the first meeting to discuss a bombing was held in Bangkok in February 2002, with Mukhlas—one of Amrozi's brothers—"the leading figure." The group discussed further "bombing operations against American interests and its allies." Amrozi, 40, was not present in Bangkok but the indictment says he attended later planning sessions—in a car in the city of Solo in Central Java in August 2002, at two mosques in the city and at his house in East Java.

The meeting in the car "discussed the awareness of a Muslim's obligations to others suppressed and massacred by the United States of America and the allies thereof in Afghanistan, Palestine, Kashmir, on the Halmahera island (Maluku), Ambon and in Iraq." Muslim-Christian battles in Ambon and other parts of the Malukus killed an estimated 5,000 people until a peace pact in February last year. *AFP*

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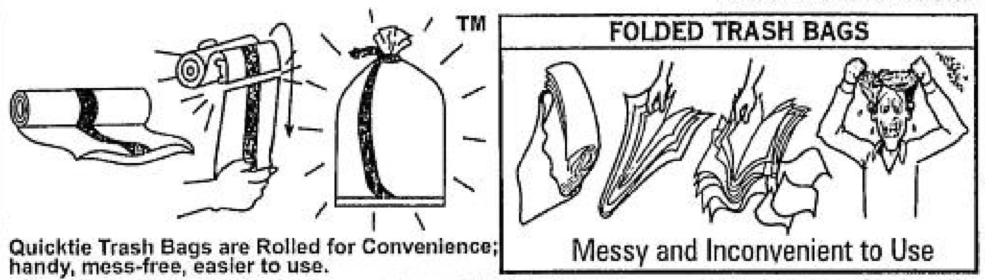

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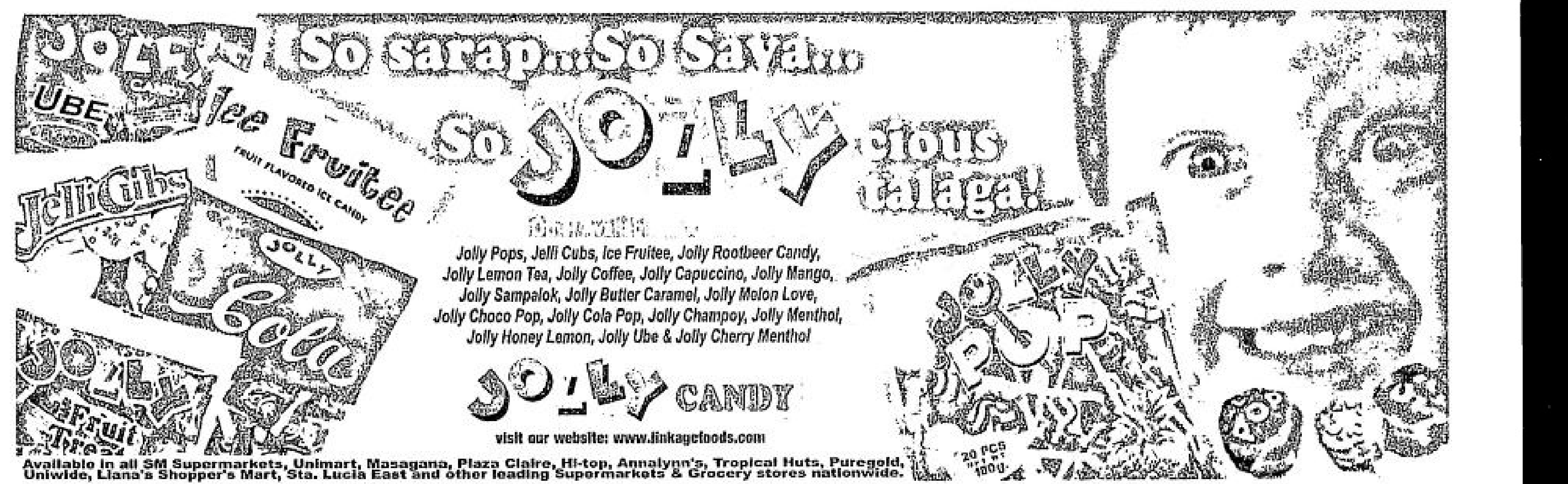

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Across the NATION

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph
Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
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ROUNDUP

Cop shot dead

CANDON CITY—A policeman was shot and killed by armed men in Barangay Bagar here on Tuesday. Reports said SPO2 Eduardo Gamoso Gamoso was riding his motorcycle in Barangay Bagar when the suspects, who were waiting in a nearby cornfield, shot him. Gamoso, who was hit in the thigh and hip, died while being taken to the St. Martin de Porres Hospital here. Police recovered nine bullet shells from an M-16 Armalite rifle in the ambush site.

Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Human head found

MABALACAT, Pampanga—Residents of Barangay Tabun here were gripped with fear Sunday after they found a human head, believed to belong to a victim of summary execution, in the village. The head was discovered after some residents noticed a dog devouring something unrecognizable at first. When they came closer, they were horrified to see that the dog was eating a human head. Police have yet to identify the victim. The head was taken to Funeraria Pangilinan here.

Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk

3 boys drown

NAGUILIAN, Isabela—Three boys drowned in the Cagayan River in Barangay Roxas here on Tuesday, reports said. Police identified the victims as twins Robin and Harold Guiyab, and Kevin Gazzingan, all 11 years old. Reports said a strong current swept the boys while they were swimming in the river. Reports said their mothers, who were washing clothes near the riverbank, had not noticed that the boys had gone to a deep portion of the river.

Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Double murders

NAUJAN, Oriental Mindoro—A farmer and his companion were shot dead by still unidentified suspects in Sitio Barokan, Barangay San Luis here while on their way home from a drinking spree on the night of April 22. The victims were identified as Donato Evora and Jimmy de Chavez, both of the same village. Police recovered eight bullet shells of still undetermined caliber.

Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

3 die in mishap

ALITAGTAG, Batangas—Two female passengers and the driver of the jeep they were riding in died when the jeep smashed into a waiting shed in Barangay Pinagkrusan in this town at 4 a.m., Tuesday. Driver Renato Cecil Greda, 31, a fish vendor, was driving the jeep headed for Lipa City when he lost control of it until it smashed into a waiting shed. He died on the spot. Passengers Erlinda Pontejas, 38, and Leovy Pontejas, 26, both fish vendors and residents of San Nicolas Street, Lipa City, were badly injured and died instantly. Another passenger, Ireneo Pontejos, was also badly injured but survived.

Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

DPWH office tops rating

THE Department of Public Works and Highways-Laguna Engineering District Office was cited by Laguna Rep. Rodolfo San Luis for topping the 2002 annual rating on quality control and road condition in the national and regional levels. In a statement, San Luis lauded district engineer Roberto Nicolas, assistant district engineer Federico Concepcion and other staffers of the engineering district for consistently meeting the standards for quality control and road condition of the DPWH. The road network of San Luis' district from Pila to Sta. Maria, Laguna is one of the best maintained in the country. The Laguna engineering office got a 94.78 percent rating on quality control and 93.08 percent on road condition.

Naga withdraws bid

NAGA CITY—Naga City Councilor Julian Lavadia Jr., national secretary of the Basketball Association of the Philippines, said Naga City has withdrawn its bid to host the Palaro as an alternative to Tubod, Lanao del Norte, site of the cancelled Palarong Pambansa 2003. "What we (Naga City) want now is to host the First Philippine National Championship and the First Luzon Friendship Games," Lavadia said. He said all the 24 events of the Southeast Asian Games would also be played in these national events.

Alan Pelayo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Tax collection rises

DAVAO CITY—The Bureau of Internal Revenue in Southern Mindanao said its collection rose by 10 percent for the first four months of the year. Evelyn Sardido, revenue district officer of BIR District 110, said the increase was due to their tax mapping and massive information campaign at the barangay level. She said that from January to April this year, the BIR managed to collect P942.7 million. Last year, the agency collected P851.4 million for the same period. For the month of April alone, Sardido said they were able to collect P305.7 million.

Joel B. Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau

SARS info drive

The Tagum Agricultural Development Company (Tadeco), a producer and exporter of cavendish bananas, recently sponsored an informative seminar on Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) to inform its employees of measures tha the firm was taking in handling the disease. "We just want to take the necessary precautions just in case the killer disease (reaches) Mindanao or Davao. We want to be prepared. We want to protect our employees," Tadeco chair Antonio O. Floirendo Sr. said in a news release. Conducting the seminar was Dr. Rogelio Piñera, officer in charge of the Regional Epidemiology Surveillance Unit, Department of Health. To prevent the spread of the disease, the DOH highly encourages the public to cooperate with anti-SARS measures.

ANTI-GMO PROTESTS

Hunger strike vs 'Frankenfood'

AN AMERICAN Peace Corps volunteer and a group of farmers went on hunger strike to protest President Macapagal-Arroyo's decision to commercialize the production of genetically modified organisms (GMOs), which its proponents said could help ease hunger worldwide.

In Baguio City, Andrew Haralam, 29, stationed himself inside a blue pop tent at the Square, without a written permit from City Hall.

Haralam had advised fellow environmentalists at City Hall about his campaign.

"This is a two-pronged campaign. I am against (this country's decision to allow) Bt corn into the Philippines, and I am also against the American company which intends to bring this (GMO product) onto Philippine (soil)," Haralam said.

"There aren't enough studies that conclude that (Bt corn and other forms of GMOs) are not harmful. In fact, more studies say they are harmful to humans."

Hunger strikers in Manila, led by Roberto Verzola of Philippines Greens, passed their 16th day of fasting on Friday.

A GMO critic from Kalinga had already launched his own hunger strike there, but might join Haralam.

"I stopped eating (Thursday) night, but I set up my tent here only (on Friday). I've survived seven days without eating when I was in Montana, so sitting here doing nothing (could mean I can survive) a longer spell," said Haralam.

Two artists—musician Bingbing Veloso and sculptor Bumbo Villanueva—joined Haralam on Friday.

In Los Baños, Laguna, at least 1,000 farmers went on fasting, too.

Emmanuel Yap, a leader of the farmers' group Masipag, said should Agriculture Secretary Cito Lorenzo decide in favor of Bt corn, there would be bigger protests.

Farmers from Leyte, Iloilo, Negros, Southern Tagalog, Central Luzon, the Caraga region, South Cotabato and Davao del Sur also fasted.

"The DA has been feeding us false and misleading information about GMOs," said Igmedio Facunla, a Nueva Ecija farmer.

But a DA official said the farmers have no new piece of evidence to justify a continued moratorium on GMOs.

"Unless and until there's a new firm and robust evidence against Bt corn, only then can we entertain a new risk assessment," said Segfredo Serrano, assistant agriculture secretary.

He said a study made during the term of former Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor "found no significant risks" from Bt corn.

"The public just have to trust the system," he said. *Volt Contreras and Vincent Cabreza and Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

SUCCESSFUL was the word Philippine and US military officials used to describe the Balikatan exercises held partly in Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija during which American soldiers taught their Filipino counterparts the proper use of guns. DAVID GREEDY/GETTY IMAGES

RP, US military execs say Balikatan 'successful'

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Philippine and American military officials declared the Balikatan-03 successful, saying the exercises were "more significant" in the defense alliance of the two countries.

Brig. Gen. Gabriel Ledesma, commander of the Joint Task Force Balikatan-03, said the two-week exercises, which began on April 25, enhanced the capabilities especially of Filipino soldiers in fighting insurgency and terrorism.

The training, aimed at improving the inter-operability of all branches of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the United States Armed Forces, gathered 2,400 troops on the Philippine side and 1,300 on the US side.

Exercise directors Col. Ricardo Brillantes and Col. Lee Freund closed the training with respective reports that each side gained considerably from various activities held in Clark in Pampanga, Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija and Sangley in Cavite.

Maj. Gen. Joseph Weber, commander of the 3rd Marine Division of the US Joint Forces, said he saw "one thing that linked all of (us) together."

According to Weber, this was the "stronger desire of each USAF and AFP members to learn from each other and to look for ways to improve their expertise in military operations."

The "cemented friendship," he added, would ensure the success of future Balikatan exercises, which started 18 years ago. The exercises were suspended by the rejection of the extension of the 1947 Philippine-US military bases agreement in 1991 and resumed under the Visiting Forces Agreement in 1999.

Maj. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, AFP vice chief of staff, said Balikatan-03 spoke of the "close engagements" of the two armed forces.

"It eloquently manifests our two nations' continuing commitment in achieving lasting peace and stability in this part of the region, the Asia-Pacific," he said.

The US military said it spent $7 million for this training, $120,000 of which was spent for humanitarian and civic assistance.

The number of participants from the American contingent was smaller this year due to US military commitments in various parts of the world.

Unlike in past years, Balikatan-03 held coordinated night vision goggle training for the Philippine Air Force, especially for pilots of Huey helicopters, according to Col. Chuck O'Neill, commander of the US Air Force.

No untoward incident took place against any US soldier during the duration of the exercises, despite earlier threats from the New People's Army.

"Security was good," O'Neill told reporters. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Ninoy son says he's not running for senator

TARLAC Rep. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III yesterday declared that he was not running for senator as rumor mills had been spreading.

In a statement he made during a visit to Lucena City, the only son of the late Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr., said he was instead seeking reelection as congressman of Tarlac in the 2004 elections.

"As I have always said, I do not want to contribute to the rift in the Aquino family. In my own limited way, I have been working to patch things up with my relatives and I cannot do that by exacerbating the situation," the younger Aquino said.

Noynoy further said that an Aquino is already in the Senate in the person of her aunt, Sen. Teresa Aquino Oreta, the youngest sibling of Ninoy.

During his visit to Lucena City, Noynoy said he was not in a hurry to run for senator, a position which his father held before martial law was declared.

Noynoy said he was still young and the Senate was not in his agenda at this time.

He said he was happy serving the people of Tarlac as the province's representative.

"If it is my destiny to become a senator, then it will happen at the right time. I'm still young and will still have many opportunities to seek a Senate seat in the future, but not next year," said Noynoy.

Farmer leader found dead after cops picked him up

THE PEASANT group Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) said one of its members turned up dead yesterday in Cavite, days after being held by local police and military agents.

In a statement, the KMP said the victim's two fellow farmer-activists were also being illegally detained by authorities on suspicion they were communist guerrillas.

Melencio Gloriani, 51, was found dead—his body riddled with bullets—in Sitio Kapantayan, Barangay Bucal in Maragondon town early yesterday, the KMP said.

Two more farmers—Ronilo Pagao, 22, and one Gerry Ciocos—are being held by the Special Weapons and Tactics unit of the Philippine National Police-Provincial Mobile Group and the Marines, it added.

The three are members of the Kalipunan ng mga Magsasaka sa Kabite, the KMP chapter in Cavite.

Reports reaching KMP's office in Quezon City said the three were being used by police as "guides" against New People's Army rebels.

Earlier, the KMP said, the three were publicly tagged by their handlers as NPA members themselves.

Pagao and Ciacos were reportedly being held in Camp Pantaleon in Imus, Cavite while Gloriani's house in Sitio Kapantayan was ransacked prior to the discovery of his body, the group said. *Volt Contreras*

Isabela cops on alert for May 12 special polls

DELFIN ALBANO, Isabela—Police officials placed Isabela on red alert and sent more policemen to seven towns and Santiago City to defuse tension over the May 12 special elections to fill up the vacancy left by the late Rep. Antonio Abaya.

Senior Supt. Nelson Nario, Isabela police director, said the province-wide alert would prepare the province's policemen for the voting and canvassing.

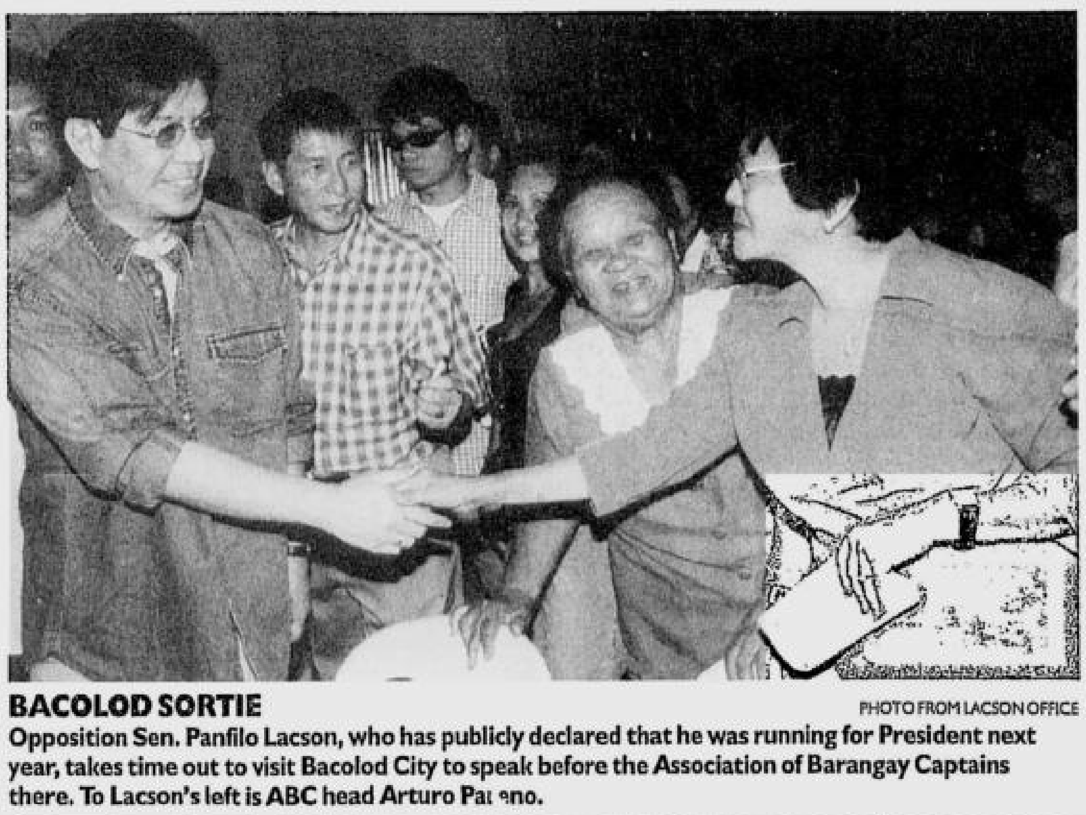
He said he also sent soldiers from the 5th Infantry Division based in Gamu, Isabela, to help policemen keep the peace in the towns of Echague, Ramon, San Isidro, San Agustin, Jones, Dinapigue, Cordon and Santiago City.

Nario said although Santiago City was not declared an election hot spot, policemen should not sit back and relax.

Dr. Siony Abaya, wife of the late congressman, and lawyer Giorgidi Aggabao are running in the congressional race.

Abaya is said to be a "sentimental favorite" while Aggabao is a protégé of Gov. Faustino Dy Jr.

The Commission on Elections said carrying and using firearms and other deadly weapons are prohibited and the employment of armed security guards and personnel is disallowed. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



BACOLOD SORTIE PHOTO FROM LACSON OFFICE

Opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson, who has publicly declared that he was running for President next year, takes time out to visit Bacolod City to speak before the Association of Barangay Captains there. To Lacson's left is ABC head Arturo Pa[illegible]eno.

INQUIRER Visayas

E-mail: pdivis@skyinet.net

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

Special kids went to camp and had a blast

By Chito A. Fuentes
Loboc, Bohol

> *"You are a child of the universe. No less than the trees and the stars, you have a right to be here."*
> *—Desiderata*

IT LOOKED like the typical schedule for a typical children's camp: a dip in the sea off the white beaches of Panglao; a cruise along Loboc River; and a view from the heights at the world-renowned Chocolate Hills.

Add to that a cheering competition, Mardi Gras festival, cultural show, dance festival, talent search, children's theater, Santacruzan festival, an arts and crafts session, nature study, disco, special olympics and kite flying and one can sense it was indeed a typical children's camp.

Far from being your typical kids, they are, by every yardstick, special children. And they had the fun of their lives.

In fact, these were the activities of the recently concluded "Kamp Pagkakaisa" for 106 special children held in Loboc town from April 26 to May 4. The campers included children with mental retardation, autism, learning disability and sensory problems from 13 institutions in Metro Manila.

Also joining the camp were street children, orphans, physically abused and emotionally disturbed children.

Silver camp

Kamp Pagkakaisa is an annual project of the Pagkakaisa Volunteers Inc. Foundation (PVI Foundation). The Loboc camp was the "silver camp" since it was the 25th uninterrupted summer treat for the special kids.

"It's a time when the special children experience different activities while at the same time feeling love and acceptance of family," said Ethel Tan, the camp director.

Because some of the children have no families, the activities were directed towards family sharing including a session when they were adopted by foster parents from the host community.

Holding the camp outside Metro Manila gave the special children the rare opportunity to be in an environment other than their institutions, schools and homes.

Aside from adapting to different camp situations and resources, the camps also gave the kids the opportunity to acquire independence and lessen attachment to parents and siblings while minimizing separation anxiety.

Camps are also occasions for the children to interact with adults and other children of the same or different type of exceptionality that increase their social skills.

More than just developing motor skills and creativity through arts and crafts activities, however, the camps reassure the kids that they are accepted by society.

Mitch Lacre, PVI Foundation officer in charge and this year's camp coordinator, said the first 10-day summer camp was held on April 16-20, 1979 in Los Baños, Laguna. There was no stopping the yearly summer break since then.

Since 1979, the PVI Foundation made sure that the special children will be able to hold camp, "traveling by land, climbing mountains and crossing seas, whether the country is in good times or bad," Lacre said.

Loboc is the third place that the children visited in the Visayas. Mandaue City in Cebu hosted them in 1990. They were in La Paz, Iloilo in 1993.

As to how Loboc came into the picture, Lacre said some volunteers in the group were invited by the Bohol Foreign Friendship Foundation Inc. (BFFFI) to conduct group dynamics for boy and girl scouts as part of the Sandugo festival in July last year.

The idea of holding the camp in Bohol came up and three sites were proposed.

Hidden no more

Karen San Agustin, this year's kitchen in charge, explained that PVI Foundation chose the historical town of Loboc, 24 km from Tagbilaran City, over the two other proposed sites because they prefer remote sites.

"Most of the time, people in remote places hide their special children because there are many misconceptions. Some cannot even accept them. During the camp, the children join parades and engage in activities so the special children will no longer be hidden. Instead, they are encouraged to come out," she added.

Lacre said the idea was received warmly by Boholanos and was supported by local officials led by Mayor Cecilio Sarigumba. They would not be disappointed.

Six special children from Loboc benefited from the camp. In the first two days, the kids took part in the activities but went home after the afternoon sessions.

"After two or three days, they didn't want to go home anymore when their parents came to fetch them. They wanted to stay and join the activities," San Agustin noted.

Lacre said the camp program has done wonders for the special kids.

"Some of our kids literally grew up in the camp. They started when they were five years old. They are now 10, 11 or 12 and they keep on joining," she noted.

Although the camp is not officially part of the curriculum of institutions for special kids, it has become a sort of motivating factor. If the kids don't behave in school, they won't be allowed to join the camp.

It may not mean much to other kids, but it is a lot more for these children.

"To many of the kids, it is only Christmas, New Year and then after that, it's camping time," Lacre explained. Parents often dangle camp participation as a carrot to kids who misbehave.

More often than not, it works. Who would want to miss a camp anyway?

Edible chocolates

This year, the children got to see the Chocolate Hills which is only about 20 minutes ride from Loboc. As expected, it was an unforgettable experience for the kids.

"*Yong* Chocolate Hills *nakikita lang nila yun sa* picture (they see Chocolate Hills only in pictures)," Lacre said.

She said the kids really thought the chocolate hills could be eaten so the volunteers had to explain that they are not edible.

"So what we did, we brought chocolates and we gave these to them when they came down from the hills," Lacre laughingly recalled.

More than anything, the success of the camp can be gauged by how the special children emerge from it. Three campers were promoted as staff in Loboc.

"Now, we count them as part of us. They are no longer among those we take care of but they now help us watch over the younger ones," Tan explained.

The graduates now help out in cleaning the rooms and making the camp orderly.

Lacre said every camp required a lot of effort on the part of PVI since campers are not made to pay registration fees. "Every year, the biggest challenge is always financial," she said.

Reynaldo San Agustin, a founding member of the PVI Foundation, said the challenge becomes bigger when the campers need to take a boat.

Although the Superferry of the WG&A Shipping Company was generous in giving them discounts this year, Lacre said they needed to raise a sizable amount for food and other expenses.

San Agustin said the donations they raised in Metro Manila were used up for the boat fare alone.

BFFFI's Lutgardo Labad, who was the local contact of PVI Foundation, said this year's camp received a boost not only from BFFFI and the provincial government but also from benefactors like the First Consolidated Bank, BFFFI's Hans School and Bea Zobel, among many others who prefer to remain anonymous.

Rodel Beltran, who coordinated the activities for this year's camp, identified one thing working against the foundation and, as a consequence, the camp.

"Some people, including some in Loboc, have misconceptions that we are funded by a foreign country," Beltran said.

The PVI Foundation volunteers insist that nothing can be farther from the truth. To finance various activities particularly Kamp Pagkakaisa which is the main activity, PVI Foundation volunteers raise funds through corporate solicitation, sponsor-a-camper campaigns, bingo socials, stage plays, concerts, raffles and other activities.

All about love

It is all for the love of the special children. For all of them, volunteerism has its own rewards.

Concon Bariso, also an activities coordinator like Beltran, said each camp gives them a different sense of satisfaction.

"It's a different feeling when you're with these kids," he bared.

Levi Ranara, a first-time volunteer, used one word to describe it: "unbelievable."

That's easy to believe considering that the volunteers make it a point to free their schedules on camp dates.

Bariso said Lacre even quit her job once because she was not allowed to go on leave.

Like most good things however, the Loboc camp had to end.

Ranara said it was heart-wrenching to watch the kids during the final activity, the love shower during the bonfire.

It is the moment when the children bid farewell to the volunteers who took care of them for the duration of the camp as well as their fellow campers.

"*Grabe!*" Ranara said as he groped for words to describe the event.

Some shed tears while others sobbed uncontrollably.

The emotional parting was expected given the bond they had. Days earlier, one of the campers tried to slash a wrist because she didn't want the camp to end.

"For many of these kids, it was the closest thing to paradise," Ranara explained.

Indeed, each camp has its own story to tell. Each special child who has been to different camps knows that. While Loboc is over, a bigger event looms ahead.

Next year, it will be the 25th anniversary of the PVI Foundation. Lacre said they plan to pitch camp in Metro Manila so they can draw the biggest participation, something like 500 special children who have been part of the summer event through the years.

More than just a milestone for the PVI Foundation however, it will not just be another event to look forward to. It will be far more special than any previous camp.

As far as the kids are concerned, however, it will not be much of a big deal. More than trees and the stars, they know they have a right to be there.

A YOUNG camper engrossed with her art paintings

NILO SAPONG

More than anything, the success of the camp can be gauged by how the special children emerge from it

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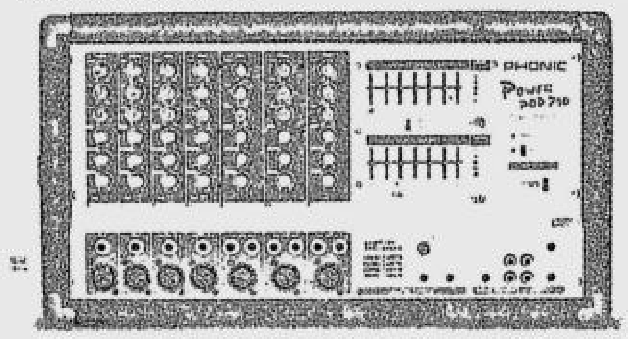

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Bush to host rare state dinner for GMA

From page A1

tice in the war on terrorism has been focused on Afghanistan or Iraq or other places," he said.

"The Philippines has suffered mightily at the hands of terrorists, and the Philippine government and President Macapagal have shown great courage in taking on the terrorists inside the Philippines, and particularly on some of the more remote islands in the Philippines."

Last year, about 1,000 US Special Forces were sent to help Filipino troops fight Muslim Abu Sayyaf rebels, leading to the death of top guerrilla leader Abu Sabaya and the rescue of American hostage Gracia Burnham.

Ms Macapagal's trip to Washington, originally scheduled for April, was postponed because of the Iraq war.

Officials in the Philippines say that in addition to talks with Bush, Ms Macapagal is scheduled to meet leaders of major US companies that will undertake rehabilitation work in Iraq.

The Philippines is lobbying to get jobs for up to 100,000 Filipinos in the reconstruction of Iraq. There are about 1.4 million Filipino workers in the Middle East.

US friends

Bush is trying to build support for his postwar Iraq goals by filling the White House with leaders of countries allied behind the US-led military campaign.

The message from Bush was that such loyalty pays off. He ate breakfast Thursday with the Danish prime minister, had lunch and an Oval Office appearance with the emir of Qatar, and held afternoon celebration in the East Room with a half dozen more members of his Iraq coalition.

"You made some promises to America and you kept your promises," Bush told the emir, Sheik Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, whose tiny nation hosted US war headquarters. "We're honored to call you friend."

The White House announced the rare state dinner for President Macapagal, and a coveted visit to Bush's Texas ranch for Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi at which the leaders will discuss Iraq's future.

Bush's breakfast with Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen was a nod to Denmark's assent to sending troops to help stabilize Iraq even before any decision is made about the UN's role in Iraq's reconstruction.

Bush lauds allies

Later, Bush paid special tribute to the Qatari emir, granting him an Oval Office meeting, a lunch and a joint appearance at which the Arab leader said his country is open to American business.

"We welcome all American corporations who are willing and committed to come and invest in Qatar," he said in his brief statement.

At a later ceremony, Bush praised seven former communist countries for their shift into free-market democracies and for their support for the United States on Iraq. The event, attended by the nations' foreign ministers, followed the unanimous Senate vote endorsing the addition to Nato of Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

All but Slovenia were at least nominal partners in Bush's Iraq coalition; Slovenia has allowed overflight rights for humanitarian missions.

"In the battle of Iraq, central and eastern European countries have stood with America in our coalition to end a grave threat to peace, and to rid Iraq of a brutal, brutal regime," Bush said. *Reuters, AP, AFP*

Pinay held in Denmark

From page A1

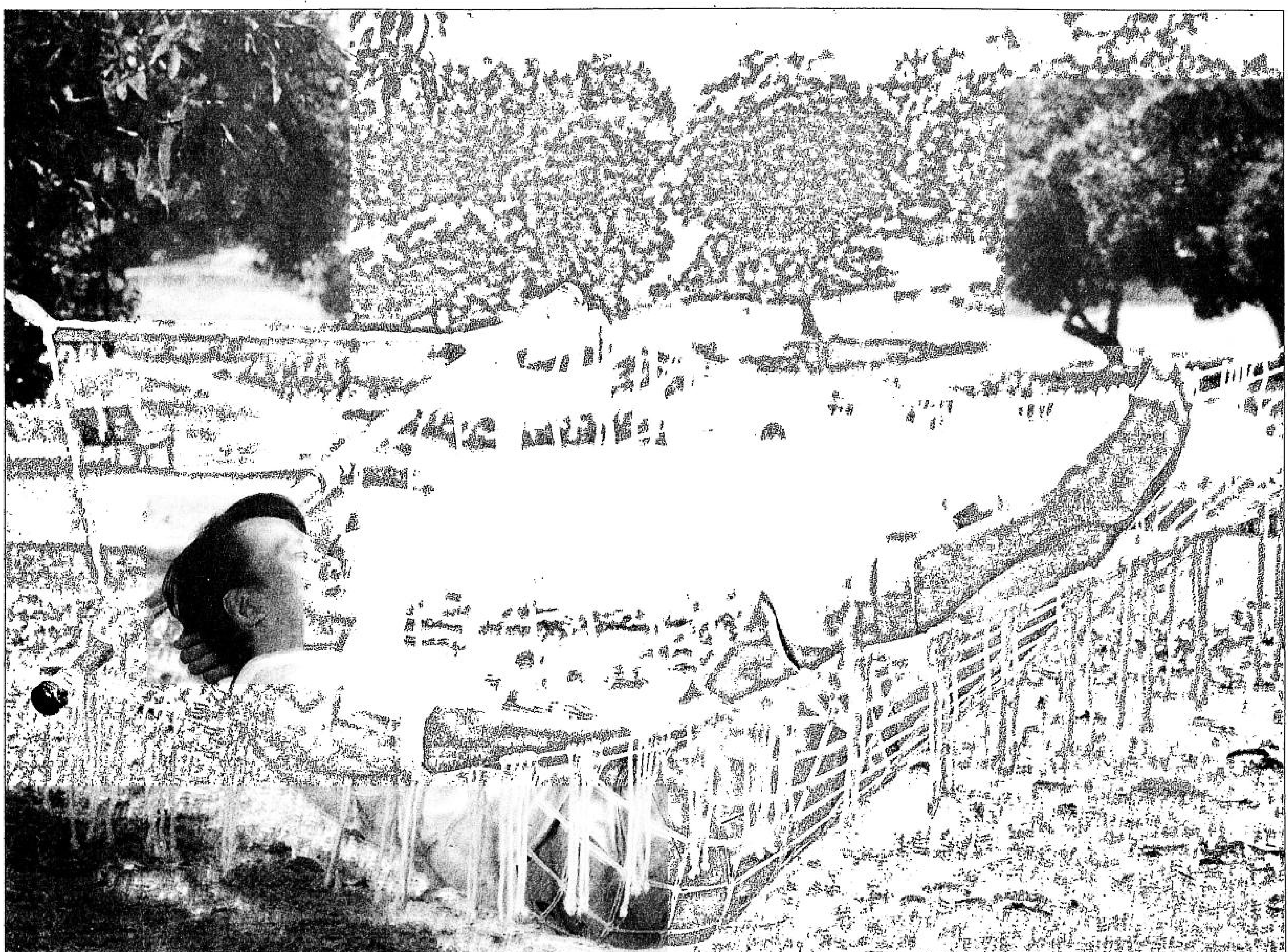
ternational airport.

She was not identified because the court proceeding was closed to the public, as is usual in cases involving large amounts of illegal drugs. The Copenhagen city court jailed her for 27 days in custody pending an investigation.

The cocaine hidden in her suitcase has an estimated street value of US$454,550 (about P23.8 million).

It was the second major catch in Denmark this year. In February, a 39-year-old Brazilian woman was caught with two kilograms of cocaine in her luggage.

In 2002, Copenhagen police seized a total of 5.8 kg of cocaine, down from 2001 when 16 kg were seized in the Danish capital. *AP*



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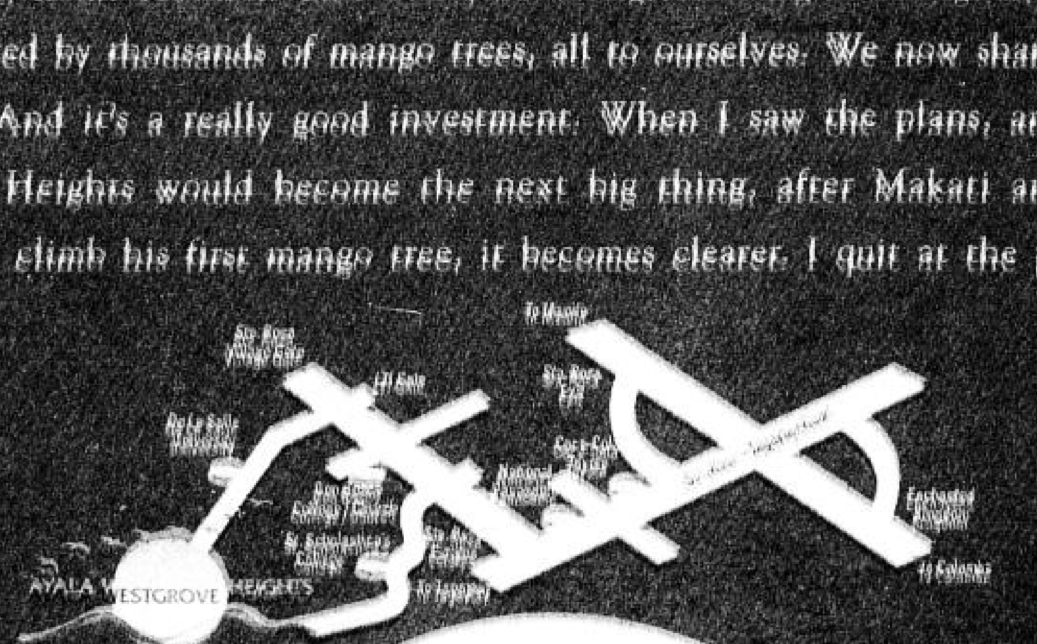

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Piatco now ready to talk

From page A1

destructive activities that have characterized the crackdown on Piatco for the last two years."

He said it was high time the controversy was put to rest.

"It would be extremely unfortunate if the construction of the Philippines' newest international passenger terminal would, instead, be a living testament to how complicated it is to do business in the Philippines. That would be most counter-productive," he said.

Cheng lauded the President for designating Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza to lead the negotiations.

He said Mendoza would be "instrumental in reaching constructive solutions."

$500M

On Wednesday, Piatco's chief legal counsel Frank Chavez declared that the government should pay Piatco some $500 million "plus interest."

He said that if the government failed to come up with an "acceptable payment scheme and payment program," Piatco would exercise its "option" to stop a government takeover of Naia Terminal 3.

The following day, the President's spokesperson Ignacio Bunye urged Piatco not to appeal the Supreme Court ruling nullifying all five Piatco contracts to build and operate the terminal.

Bunye said that should Piatco agree to sit down for talks with the government, it could count on "just compensation."

"It may be better if the other party will not file a motion for reconsideration and we'll just talk," he said.

Under the rules, Piatco has 15 days to appeal the high court's ruling, promulgated on May 5, that declared all five Piatco contracts "null and void."

In invalidating the contracts, the high court said these were contrary to public policy and violative of the Philippines' Build-Operate-Transfer Law.

The 76-page ruling was written by Associate Justice Reynato Puno, and concurred in by nine other justices.

"In sum, this court rules that in view of the absence of the requisite financial capacity of the Paircargo consortium, predecessor of respondent Piatco, the award by the Pre-qualification, Bids and Awards Committee of the contract for the construction, operation and maintenance of the Naia III is null and void," the tribunal said.

Also void

The Supreme Court also declared null and void the 1997 Concession Agreement (CA), saying it contained "material and substantial amendments" that "had the effect of converting the 1997 CA into an entirely different agreement from the contract bid upon."

The CA provisions in relation to the provision of the Amended and Restated Concession Agreement (Arca)—which constitute direct government guarantee expressly prohibited by, among others, the BOT Law and its implementing rules and regulations—were also declared void, as well as the three Supplements "being accessory contracts to the Arca."

The tribunal said it was "aware of the far-reaching fallout effects of the ruling."

It added: "For more than a century, and whenever the exigencies of the time demand it, this court has never shirked its solemn duty to dispense justice and resolve 'actual controversies.'"

It also said that to declare the Piatco contracts valid despite the clear statutory prohibition against a direct government guarantee would "only make a mockery of what the BOT Law seeks to prevent—which is to expose the government to the risk of incurring a monetary obligation."

'I'm not pointing an accusing finger at anyone'

From page A1

Yap were killed.

"Martin and I were aware that many Philippine soldiers died as they attempted to end our captivity. The goal of those brave soldiers was to rescue us, and nothing more.

"We want their loved ones to know that we appreciate the sacrifice they made for us and we honor their memory," she said, adding "I continue to pray for you—my dear friends—my heart is there with you."

The statement was "provided to local media outlets" in the country at Burnham's request, according to the US Embassy.

The embassy said Burnham issued the statement dated May 8 to clarify the "recent press reports of her allegations of collusion between the Philippine military and the ASG in her recently published book."

In her book, Burnham had also claimed that a Filipino general had demanded a 50-percent cut of her and husband Martin's ransom.

Addresssed to her "friends in the Philippines," Burnham said that she wanted to make a statement "to all of you who live in the land that Martin and I loved."

She said she was aware that the Philippine media had reported that she had made allegations of collusion between the Philippine military and the ASG.

Burnham, however, objected to the use of the word "allegations."

"I do not like that word—allegations. I am not pointing an accusing finger at anyone. I am relating what I was told by the Abu Sayyaf," she stressed.

Burnham explained that "we (hostages) were told many things" by the bandit group.

However, "some of them (were) true and some of them lies," she said.

Despite Burnham's conciliatory remarks, President Macapagal said, "We cannot leave this story hanging as it has grave implications on the image and stature of our Armed Forces."

The President had ordered an inquiry into the book's claims, which had revived suspicious the military had colluded with the Abu Sayyaf, allegedly linked to the al-Qaida network of Islamic militants led by the Saudi-born Osama bin Laden.

At the Department of Justice, Undersecretary Merceditas N. Gutierrez said the DOJ was considering taking Burnham's deposition in the United States.

"If there is a need to get her written statement, we will ask the assistance of the US Embassy here in Manila. And if there is a need to go to the US to get her testimony, then we will do that," said Gutierrez.

Gutierrez said that Burnham could also opt to execute an affidavit, and have it subscribed to before an authorized official in the Philippine Embassy in the United States.

Gutierrez told reporters that the three-man fact-finding panel formed Thursday by Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong to look into Burnham's claims could not just rely on a book.

"We would need other documents or testimony to corroborate (it)," said Gutierrez who stressed that "hearsay evidence will not really stand in court."

But just the same, Gutierrez, who heads the panel, wants to have a closer look at Burnham's accounts.

"I have already instructed one of our prosecutors to check how we can get hold of the book as soon as possible," she said.

Kabalu confirms hostages' stay in MILF camp

By Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ZAMBOANGA CITY—With "sadness," Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) spokesman Eid Kabalu welcomed Gracia Burnham's positive impression of their three-week stay at the MILF camp in Sumisip, Basilan during their captivity.

Kabalu explained to the Inquirer that, "despite the government stand branding us as terrorists, the Abu Sayyaf captives like Gracia still saw the goodness of our people in the field."

Gracia had written that their stay in an MILF camp proved to be the least stressful.

He confirmed that one of their field commanders, Amir Mingkong, based in Erelei Sumisip had earlier been accused of conniving with the Abu Sayyaf under Kadaffy Janjalani's leadership.

After the military released this report, Kabalu said Mingkong was placed under investigation by the MILF. But no collusion was found between the MILF and the Abu Sayyaf bandits, according to Kabalu.

He admitted though that other field commanders reported to him that Mingkong, in his personal capacity, "for maybe humanitarian or monetary reasons, or because one or two of the Abu Sayyaf were his relatives, accommodated the request of the Abu Sayyaf to stay briefly at their camp in Sumisip. We cannot yet confirm the allegations," Kabalu said.

MILF gives refuge to Abu Sayyaf, hostages

From page A1

hostages learned that the MILF, the largest secessionist movement in the country, enjoyed more advantageous terms with the authorities. "Their dialogue with the government was going better than the Abu Sayyaf's," she reports.

The book does not dwell on the relationship between the bandit group and the Moro separatists. It doesn't even have a single conclusion to make about the MILF. But the mere presence of the Abu Sayyaf in the camp seems to confirm repeated allegations by the Armed Forces that the MILF was coddling the bandits. Apparently, the MILF was taking advantage of the friendlier environment to give support to the smaller but higher-profile kidnap group.

In the end, according to Gracia's account, the two groups of hostages that were split less than a month previously were reunited in the hard-to-access camp. And the weeks the entire group eventually spent in the MILF site proved to be, relatively, the least stressful.

Reflecting on their captivity, Gracia says the hostages either had no time to themselves, because they were walking all day and all night to escape government soldiers, or too much time on their hands, sitting around with nothing to do.

"The weeks in the MILF camp along the river were definitely the second of the two," she writes.

Sympathizers

The Abu Sayyaf did not lack for sympathizers or supporters, at least in the early stages of the hostage crisis.

Once, fleeing the chaos in Lamitan, the bandits and their growing number of hostages reached a school sometime around noon. It was about a week after the Dos Palmas group had landed on Basilan. "Although classes weren't in session, there were a few teachers around, and for some reasons they weren't afraid of us," Gracia writes. A cow was killed and cooked, and boiled eggs, noodles and rice were prepared. The women hostages were also given a change of clothes.

Pit stops like this marked the hostages' increasingly desperate race through the Basilan jungle. But when the Abu Sayyaf's money ran out, supplies became a problem, even on the island which the bandits knew intimately.

The first time the food supply dropped, Gracia writes: "People would show up with extra goodies and, when questioned, would say, Oh, this is 'personal.'" With the bandits on the run on Basilan, the transfer was financed by some P15 million in ransom money that a benefactor had paid for the Burnhams.

The proof that Abu Sabaya and his group handling the hostages had received the ransom was visible: new equipment, food on the table. "At least the Abu Sayyaf had new phones, thanks to the ransom money, which allowed us to order supplies," Gracia writes, recalling the events of May 2002.

The bandit group also received support from the media, in particular Radyo Agong, the Radio Mindanao Network station Gracia describes as friendly to the Abu Sayyaf. The news, sometime in the first quarter of 2002, that the negotiations with the general who wanted 50 percent of the ransom money had fallen through came via a "coded message" aired on Radyo Agong as a public service bulletin.

The announcer, using "a tip-off name for Sabaya," used a real estate transaction storyline to convey the message that "the bank" had rejected the offer to sell and would now "take the house by force."

The message was unmistakable. Gracia recalls. The announcer, for good measure, had added a piece of advice: Leave the house to avoid trouble.

It was time to move on.

Commitment but no discipline

Contrary to both their self-image and the public image they carefully cultivated, the Abu Sayyaf bandits lacked elementary discipline. They had commitment, which was not necessarily the same thing.

Sometime in November 2001, just before the holy season of Ramadan, when Gracia, her husband Martin and Lamitan hospital head nurse Ediborah Yap were the only hostages left, Gracia asked Abu Musab, the second-in-command of the Abu Sayyaf, why it was all right to steal the cow they were now cooking. Musab's answer was straight to the point: The warrior fighting a holy war had priority over all others. Gracia pressed the case. Can holy warriors still steal even when they already live in a pure Islamic state?

The answer, coursed through Ediborah, who served as interpreter, was hard to forget: "If we need it, it's not really stealing."

The disconnect between the Abu Sayyaf's rigid theory and rather flexible practice became even more visible during the Ramadan fasting season itself, when the bandits ended up eating more, not less.

Late in 2001 or early in 2002, Abu Sabaya, the bandit spokesperson, engaged the Burnhams in a conversation about Muhammad Ali, who was featured in the December 2001 issue of Reader's Digest.

Ali, the most famous Muslim convert alive, condemned the terrorists who had brought down the World Trade Center, saying they and others like them were "not real Muslims."

"Well, of course Muhammad Ali would denounce this," Gracia quotes Sabaya's retort. "He's living the good life in America!"

Deadly mistake

Once, sometime in September 2001, the Abu Sayyaf made a terrible mistake.

Using Joel, another hostage picked up in Lamitan, as her main source, Gracia recounts the massacre that nobody wanted.

The Abu Sayyaf had planned to stake out a major road, stop any jeepney, and then relieve it of any food packages it might be carrying.

A jeepney loaded on top with sacks of rice came into view. Riding shotgun was a Cafgu regular (a militiaman). When the bandits emerged from the shadows, the Cafgu raised his gun.

That prompted the Abu Sayyaf to open fire, sweeping the entire jeepney with their Armalite rifles.

Eight or nine civilians died in the massacre.

As it turned out, the Cafgu's gun wasn't even loaded. Even children had died in the ambush. And at least two of the victims were related to an Abu Sayyaf member.

The massacre helped make some of the previously sympathetic villagers hostile.

"We walked through several Muslim villages that were totally deserted ... But the civilians had fled, knowing that wherever the Abu Sayyaf came, bloodshed followed," Gracia writes.

Meralco refund . . .

From page A1

the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), the agency assigned to implement the refund, to immediately order a lump-sum refund for residential consumers.

Tiglao said the refund would first benefit those consuming up to 100 kilowatt-hours per month, estimated by Meralco to number 1.3 million. According to Meralco's own computations, these consumers are entitled to refunds ranging from P354 to P1,487.

"Definitely within the month," Tiglao said when asked when consumers could expect the refund. He said the President wanted the checks "issued immediately" and "put in the bill maybe next week or in two weeks."

Refunds will be given to customers on a cash basis. These can be claimed at Meralco's 30 branches, but only on the dates assigned.

Consumers will get refund information in their May billings, to be given out starting June 4. Meralco branches will be open from Monday to Saturday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Best formula

The President expressed the hope that the ERC would find the "best formula" to give back to other consumers the financial relief given them by the Supreme Court. She was referring to the tribunal's order to Meralco to refund at least P28 billion in overcharges billed consumers from 1994 to 1998.

"But we must do this at the soonest possible time," the President said. "We must not let our people wait."

ERC chair Manuel Sanchez said that while Meralco had agreed to give a lump-sum refund worth around P1.4 billion to more than 1.4 million of its customers, the commission would have to try its best to persuade the Lopez-led firm to issue the refund to more customers next month.

In an interview after the public consultation on Meralco's refund proposal yesterday, Sanchez said the power firm seemed "quite receptive" to the idea, although its proposal to refund those using 0 to 100 kWh per month would still have to undergo ERC scrutiny.

But Meralco president Jesus Francisco said in a separate interview that much consideration should be given to the firm's current cash flow.

"The problem is really cash flow," he said. "Our creditors are actually knocking at our doors already. We need to carefully manage our cash flow."

Francisco also said that from 1994 to 2002—the same period covered by the refund—Meralco invested around P59.76 billion in various infrastructure projects all over its Luzon service area.

No big problem

Tiglao said refunding small consumers within the month should not pose a big problem for Meralco because it had records on which to base the payments.

"Meralco has a list" of its consumers, he pointed out.

But Francisco said that aside from grappling with its cash flow problems, Meralco would have to issue the refunds on a staggered basis so as not to inconvenience consumers.

According to Meralco's proposal, it will give one-time refunds to those using 100 kWh or less each month. This accounts for 32.97 percent of Meralco's total customer base, but only 3.5 percent of its total consumption base.

During the presentation at the ERC, Meralco said it would issue refunds for around 8.1 billion kWh of electricity, with each of the 1.4 million customers entitled to refunds getting an average of P956.86.

Meralco's proposal indicates that for those using 0 to 50 kWh of electricity per month, the average refund will be P354.

The average refund will be P866 for those using 51 to 60 kWh; P1,020 for 61 to 70 kWh; P1,176 for 71 to 80 kWh; P1,331 for 81 to 90 kWh; and P1,487 for 91 to 100 kWh.

Why there's no court . . .

From page A1

Reyes issued his directive to Israel only on March 3. The Senate committee on national defense transmitted the results of its investigation to the military on Aug. 19 last year, or seven months earlier.

Gracia Burnham, now back in her native Kansas in the United States, has written a book, "In the Presence of My Enemies," reiterating the supposed collusion.

Israel heads a committee looking into the matter. It includes, among others, the chief of the Office of Ethical Standards and Public Accountability, the Provost Marshal, and the Judge Advocate General.

The committee's work is still in the preliminary-investigation stage, Israel said.

Asked if they were working within a deadline, Israel said he could not give a "specific time frame."

"But what I can promise you is we are trying to complete this as soon as possible, given the constraints that we are facing, like these people are assigned to [far-flung] areas and it takes time to report [to GHQ]," he said.

The committee plans to summon Dominguez, Campued and Narcise, as well as all those involved in the Lamitan siege, including Capt. Ruben Guinolbay.

The Senate committee report, which was signed by all the senators except Sen. Gregorio Honasan, recommended that the three-cited officers be subjected to court martial for violations of several provisions of the Articles of War.

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'Fictional stuff'

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Piatco now ready to talk

From page A1

destructive activities that have characterized the crackdown on Piatco for the last two years."

He said it was high time the controversy was put to rest.

"It would be extremely unfortunate if the construction of the Philippines' newest international passenger terminal would, instead, be a living testament to how complicated it is to do business in the Philippines. That would be most counter-productive," he said.

Cheng lauded the President for designating Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza to lead the negotiations.

He said Mendoza would be "instrumental in reaching constructive solutions."

$500M

On Wednesday, Piatco's chief legal counsel Frank Chavez declared that the government should pay Piatco some $500 million "plus interest."

He said that if the government failed to come up with an "acceptable payment scheme and payment program," Piatco would exercise its "option" to stop a government takeover of Naia Terminal 3.

The following day, the President's spokesperson Ignacio Bunye urged Piatco not to appeal the Supreme Court ruling nullifying all five Piatco contracts to build and operate the terminal.

Bunye said that should Piatco agree to sit down for talks with the government, it could count on "just compensation."

"It may be better if the other party will not file a motion for reconsideration and we'll just talk," he said.

Under the rules, Piatco has 15 days to appeal the high court's ruling, promulgated on May 5, that declared all five Piatco contracts "null and void."

In invalidating the contracts, the high court said these were contrary to public policy and violative of the Philippines' Build-Operate-Transfer Law.

The 76-page ruling was written by Associate Justice Reynato Puno, and concurred in by nine other justices.

"In sum, this court rules that in view of the absence of the requisite financial capacity of the Paircargo consortium, predecessor of respondent Piatco, the award by the Pre-qualification, Bids and Awards Committee of the contract for the construction, operation and maintenance of the Naia III is null and void," the tribunal said.

Also void

The Supreme Court also declared null and void the 1997 Concession Agreement (CA), saying it contained "material and substantial amendments" that "had the effect of converting the 1997 CA into an entirely different agreement from the contract bid upon."

The CA provisions in relation to the provision of the Amended and Restated Concession Agreement (Arca)—which constitute direct government guarantee expressly prohibited by, among others, the BOT Law and its implementing rules and regulations—were also declared void, as well as the three Supplements "being accessory contracts to the Arca."

The tribunal said it was "aware of the far-reaching fallout effects of the ruling."

It added: "For more than a century, and whenever the exigencies of the time demand it, this court has never shirked its solemn duty to dispense justice and resolve 'actual controversies.'"

It also said that to declare the Piatco contracts valid despite the clear statutory prohibition against a direct government guarantee would "only make a mockery of what the BOT Law seeks to prevent—which is to expose the government to the risk of incurring a monetary obligation."

Meralco refund . . .

From page A1

the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), the agency assigned to implement the refund, to immediately order a lump-sum refund for residential consumers.

Tiglao said the refund would first benefit those consuming up to 100 kilowatt-hours per month, estimated by Meralco to number 1.3 million. According to Meralco's own computations, these consumers are entitled to refunds ranging from P354 to P1,487.

"Definitely within the month," Tiglao said when asked when consumers could expect the refund. He said the President wanted the checks "issued immediately" and "put in the bill maybe next week or in two weeks."

Refunds will be given to customers on a cash basis. These can be claimed at Meralco's 30 branches, but only on the dates assigned.

Consumers will get refund information in their May billings, to be given out starting June 4. Meralco branches will be open from Monday to Saturday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Best formula

The President expressed the hope that the ERC would find the "best formula" to give back to other consumers the financial relief given them by the Supreme Court. She was referring to the tribunal's order to Meralco to refund at least P28 billion in overcharges billed consumers from 1994 to 1998.

"But we must do this at the soonest possible time," the President said. "We must not let our people wait."

ERC chair Manuel Sanchez said that while Meralco had agreed to give a lump-sum refund worth around P1.4 billion to more than 1.4 million of its customers, the commission would have to try its best to persuade the Lopez-led firm to issue the refund to more customers next month.

In an interview after the public consultation on Meralco's refund proposal yesterday, Sanchez said the power firm seemed "quite receptive" to the idea, although its proposal to refund those using 0 to 100 kWh per month would still have to undergo ERC scrutiny.

But Meralco president Jesus Francisco said in a separate interview that much consideration should be given to the firm's current cash flow.

"The problem is really cash flow," he said. "Our creditors are actually knocking at our doors already. We need to carefully manage our cash flow."

Francisco also said that from 1994 to 2002—the same period covered by the refund—Meralco invested around P59.76 billion in various infrastructure projects all over its Luzon service area.

No big problem

Tiglao said refunding small consumers within the month should not pose a big problem for Meralco because it had records on which to base the payments.

"Meralco has a list" of its consumers, he pointed out.

But Francisco said that aside from grappling with its cash flow problems, Meralco would have to issue the refunds on a staggered basis so as not to inconvenience consumers.

According to Meralco's proposal, it will give one-time refunds to those using 100 kWh or less each month. This accounts for 32.97 percent of Meralco's total customer base, but only 3.5 percent of its total consumption base.

During the presentation at the ERC, Meralco said it would issue refunds for around 8.1 billion kWh of electricity, with each of the 1.4 million customers entitled to refunds getting an average of P956.86.

Meralco's proposal indicates that for those using 0 to 50 kWh of electricity per month, the average refund will be P354.

The average refund will be P866 for those using 51 to 60 kWh; P1,020 for 61 to 70 kWh; P1,176 for 71 to 80 kWh; P1,331 for 81 to 90 kWh; and P1,487 for 91 to 100 kWh.

'I'm not pointing an accusing finger at anyone'

From page A1

Yap were killed.

"Martin and I were aware that many Philippine soldiers died as they attempted to end our captivity. The goal of those brave soldiers was to rescue us, and nothing more.

"We want their loved ones to know that we appreciate the sacrifice they made for us and we honor their memory," she said, adding "I continue to pray for you—my dear friends—my heart is there with you."

The statement was "provided to local media outlets" in the country at Burnham's request, according to the US Embassy.

The embassy said Burnham issued the statement dated May 8 to clarify the "recent press reports of her allegations of collusion between the Philippine military and the ASG in her recently published book."

In her book, Burnham had also claimed that a Filipino general had demanded a 50-percent cut of her and husband Martin's ransom.

Addresssed to her "friends in the Philippines," Burnham said that she wanted to make a statement "to all of you who live in the land that Martin and I loved."

She said she was aware that the Philippine media had reported that she had made allegations of collusion between the Philippine military and the ASG.

Burnham, however, objected to the use of the word "allegations."

"I do not like that word—allegations. I am not pointing an accusing finger at anyone. I am relating what I was told by the Abu Sayyaf," she stressed.

Burnham explained that "we (hostages) were told many things" by the bandit group.

However, "some of them (were) true and some of them lies," she said.

Despite Burnham's conciliatory remarks, President Macapagal said, "We cannot leave this story hanging as it has grave implications on the image and stature of our Armed Forces."

The President had ordered an inquiry into the book's claims, which had revived suspicious the military had colluded with the Abu Sayyaf, allegedly linked to the al-Qaida network of Islamic militants led by the Saudi-born Osama bin Laden.

At the Department of Justice, Undersecretary Merceditas N. Gutierrez said the DOJ was considering taking Burnham's deposition in the United States.

"If there is a need to get her written statement, we will ask the assistance of the US Embassy here in Manila. And if there is a need to go to the US to get her testimony, then we will do that," said Gutierrez.

Gutierrez said that Burnham could also opt to execute an affidavit, and have it subscribed to before an authorized official in the Philippine Embassy in the United States.

Gutierrez told reporters that the three-man fact-finding panel formed Thursday by Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong to look into Burnham's claims could not just rely on a book.

"We would need other documents or testimony to corroborate (it)," said Gutierrez who stressed that "hearsay evidence will not really stand in court."

But just the same, Gutierrez, who heads the panel, wants to have a closer look at Burnham's accounts.

"I have already instructed one of our prosecutors to check how we can get hold of the book as soon as possible," she said.

Kabalu confirms hostages' stay in MILF camp

By Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ZAMBOANGA CITY—With "sadness," Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) spokesman Eid Kabalu welcomed Gracia Burnham's positive impression of their three-week stay at the MILF camp in Sumisip, Basilan during their captivity.

Kabalu explained to the Inquirer that, "despite the government stand branding us as terrorists, the Abu Sayyaf captives like Gracia still saw the goodness of our people in the field."

Gracia had written that their stay in an MILF camp proved to be the least stressful.

He confirmed that one of their field commanders, Amir Mingkong, based in Erelei Sumisip had earlier been accused of conniving with the Abu Sayyaf under Kadaffy Janjalani's leadership.

After the military released this report, Kabalu said Mingkong was placed under investigation by the MILF. But no collusion was found between the MILF and the Abu Sayyaf bandits, according to Kabalu.

He admitted though that other field commanders reported to him that Mingkong, in his personal capacity, "for maybe humanitarian or monetary reasons, or because one or two of the Abu Sayyaf were his relatives, accommodated the request of the Abu Sayyaf to stay briefly at their camp in Sumisip. We cannot yet confirm the allegations," Kabalu said.

MILF gives refuge to Abu Sayyaf, hostages

From page A1

hostages learned that the MILF, the largest secessionist movement in the country, enjoyed more advantageous terms with the authorities. "Their dialogue with the government was going better than the Abu Sayyaf's," she reports.

The book does not dwell on the relationship between the bandit group and the Moro separatists. It doesn't even have a single conclusion to make about the MILF. But the mere presence of the Abu Sayyaf in the camp seems to confirm repeated allegations by the Armed Forces that the MILF was coddling the bandits. Apparently, the MILF was taking advantage of the friendlier environment to give support to the smaller but higher-profile kidnap group.

In the end, according to Gracia's account, the two groups of hostages that were split less than a month previously were reunited in the hard-to-access camp. And the weeks the entire group eventually spent in the MILF site proved to be, relatively, the least stressful.

Reflecting on their captivity, Gracia says the hostages either had no time to themselves, because they were walking all day and all night to escape government soldiers, or too much time on their hands, sitting around with nothing to do.

"The weeks in the MILF camp along the river were definitely the second of the two," she writes.

Sympathizers

The Abu Sayyaf did not lack for sympathizers or supporters, at least in the early stages of the hostage crisis.

Once, fleeing the chaos in Lamitan, the bandits and their growing number of hostages reached a school sometime around noon. It was about a week after the Dos Palmas group had landed on Basilan. "Although classes weren't in session, there were a few teachers around, and for some reasons they weren't afraid of us," Gracia writes. A cow was killed and cooked, and boiled eggs, noodles and rice were prepared. The women hostages were also given a change of clothes.

Pit stops like this marked the hostages' increasingly desperate race through the Basilan jungle. But when the Abu Sayyaf's money ran out, supplies became a problem, even on the island which the bandits knew intimately.

The first time the food supply dropped, Gracia writes: "People would show up with extra goodies and, when questioned, would say, Oh, this is 'personal.'" With the bandits on the run on Basilan, the transfer was financed by some P15 million in ransom money that a benefactor had paid for the Burnhams.

The proof that Abu Sabaya and his group handling the hostages had received the ransom was visible: new equipment, food on the table. "At least the Abu Sayyaf had new phones, thanks to the ransom money, which allowed us to order supplies," Gracia writes, recalling the events of May 2002.

The bandit group also received support from the media, in particular Radyo Agong, the Radio Mindanao Network station Gracia describes as friendly to the Abu Sayyaf. The news, sometime in the first quarter of 2002, that the negotiations with the general who wanted 50 percent of the ransom money had fallen through came via a "coded message" aired on Radyo Agong as a public service bulletin.

The announcer, using "a tip-off name for Sabaya," used a real estate transaction storyline to convey the message that "the bank" had rejected the offer to sell and would now "take the house by force."

The message was unmistakable. Gracia recalls. The announcer, for good measure, had added a piece of advice: Leave the house to avoid trouble.

It was time to move on.

Commitment but no discipline

Contrary to both their self-image and the public image they carefully cultivated, the Abu Sayyaf bandits lacked elementary discipline. They had commitment, which was not necessarily the same thing.

Sometime in November 2001, just before the holy season of Ramadan, when Gracia, her husband Martin and Lamitan hospital head nurse Ediborah Yap were the only hostages left, Gracia asked Abu Musab, the second-in-command of the Abu Sayyaf, why it was all right to steal the cow they were now cooking. Musab's answer was straight to the point: The warrior fighting a holy war had priority over all others. Gracia pressed the case. Can holy warriors still steal even when they already live in a pure Islamic state?

The answer, coursed through Ediborah, who served as interpreter, was hard to forget: "If we need it, it's not really stealing."

The disconnect between the Abu Sayyaf's rigid theory and rather flexible practice became even more visible during the Ramadan fasting season itself, when the bandits ended up eating more, not less.

Late in 2001 or early in 2002, Abu Sabaya, the bandit spokesperson, engaged the Burnhams in a conversation about Muhammad Ali, who was featured in the December 2001 issue of Reader's Digest.

Ali, the most famous Muslim convert alive, condemned the terrorists who had brought down the World Trade Center, saying they and others like them were "not real Muslims."

"Well, of course Muhammad Ali would denounce this," Gracia quotes Sabaya's retort. "He's living the good life in America!"

Deadly mistake

Once, sometime in September 2001, the Abu Sayyaf made a terrible mistake.

Using Joel, another hostage picked up in Lamitan, as her main source, Gracia recounts the massacre that nobody wanted.

The Abu Sayyaf had planned to stake out a major road, stop any jeepney, and then relieve it of any food packages it might be carrying.

A jeepney loaded on top with sacks of rice came into view. Riding shotgun was a Cafgu regular (a militiaman). When the bandits emerged from the shadows, the Cafgu raised his gun.

That prompted the Abu Sayyaf to open fire, sweeping the entire jeepney with their Armalite rifles.

Eight or nine civilians died in the massacre.

As it turned out, the Cafgu's gun wasn't even loaded. Even children had died in the ambush. And at least two of the victims were related to an Abu Sayyaf member.

The massacre helped make some of the previously sympathetic villagers hostile.

"We walked through several Muslim villages that were totally deserted ... But the civilians had fled, knowing that wherever the Abu Sayyaf came, bloodshed followed," Gracia writes.

Why there's no court . . .

From page A1

Reyes issued his directive to Israel only on March 3. The Senate committee on national defense transmitted the results of its investigation to the military on Aug. 19 last year, or seven months earlier.

Gracia Burnham, now back in her native Kansas in the United States, has written a book, "In the Presence of My Enemies," reiterating the supposed collusion.

Israel heads a committee looking into the matter. It includes, among others, the chief of the Office of Ethical Standards and Public Accountability, the Provost Marshal, and the Judge Advocate General.

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Wanted in US, Quezon ex-governor and wife to turn selves in—NBI

By Philip Tubeza

MORE than 20 years after United States authorities began to hunt them down for insurance fraud, former Quezon governor Ed Rodriguez and his wife Imelda today have announced their decision to surrender to the National Bureau of Investigation.

The couple allegedly will not contest their extradition to the United States, according to NBI officials.

The court hearing the couple's extradition case has already issued arrest warrants for the two.

The court based its decision on a Supreme Court resolution. The high court ruled—in the case of former Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez—that extraditees cannot post bail.

The NBI already has copies of their arrest warrants.

The couple are set to surrender between 9 and 11 a.m. today at the NBI headquarters.

But some bureau officials remain skeptical. They do not believe that the couple would turn themselves in on schedule.

Rodriguez is wanted for insurance fraud which he allegedly committed in the US in 1985.

It was only in February 1999, however, that the US Department of Justice asked its local counterpart in the country for help in extraditing Rodriguez.

The former Quezon official allegedly collected $150,000 in death benefits from a US insurance firm after declaring that his wife and mother Gloria Gener, died in a vehicular accident in Antipolo.

Rodriguez allegedly claimed that the three of them were going to church in Antipolo when their car had engine trouble.

While Rodriguez fixed the engine, the two women left in search of a bathroom. It was then that a car ran over the two women.

Rodriguez allegedly even submitted complete police and autopsy reports, as well as death certificates to the insurance firm.

When they discovered that Rodriguez's wife and mother-in-law were alive, the US firm sued.

THE circus elephant, now chained and harnessed, may no longer take part in shows and perform before an audience, according to the chief trainer. JOAN BONDOC

Trainer: Jumbo in heat

From page A20

forming in front of an audience for sometime.

According to Luke Pasiliao of Uniprom Inc., the company behind the "Elephant World" show in Araneta Center, Jumbo was being prepared for a television shoot when the animal simply brushed aside the unlocked gate and walked out of his quarters at the Araneta Center in Cubao, Quezon City.

He denied that there was a breach in security at the center and blamed the trainer for the elephant's escape.

"The gate is usually locked," said Pasiliao. "But (on Thursday) it was left unlocked because (the trainers were) preparing (the elephant) for a taping of a TV show."

Pasiliao said the elephant was being washed with nine other elephants when it just disobeyed its trainer and walked out of the gate.

Pasiliao said they would find out who is responsible for the unlocked gate.

Thai Lun Salanggam, the elephant's trainer or "mahout" in his native language, was injured during the escape and was taken to the Quirino Memorial Medical Center.

Dr. Cesar Nefulda of QMMC said the trainer suffered fractured ribs. At press time, the trainer is still confined at the hospital's intensive care unit.

Jumbo escaped from his quarters at the Araneta Center in Cubao on Thursday and walked all the way to Kamuning where a truck blocked his path.

Pasiliao said the incident caused a monstrous traffic snarl in the Edsa-Kamuning area.

Anne Luisa Villarico

Entertainers urge Senate to act on tough anti-piracy law

By Christine Avendano

ENTERTAINERS, including sexy actresses, trooped to the Senate yesterday to seek the immediate passage of a law that would, they claimed, save their industries from certain collapse.

The movie stars and recording artists yesterday claimed that piracy has been taking its toll on the movie and music industries.

They said the counterfeiters have also been making inroads in the book publishing and software sectors as well.

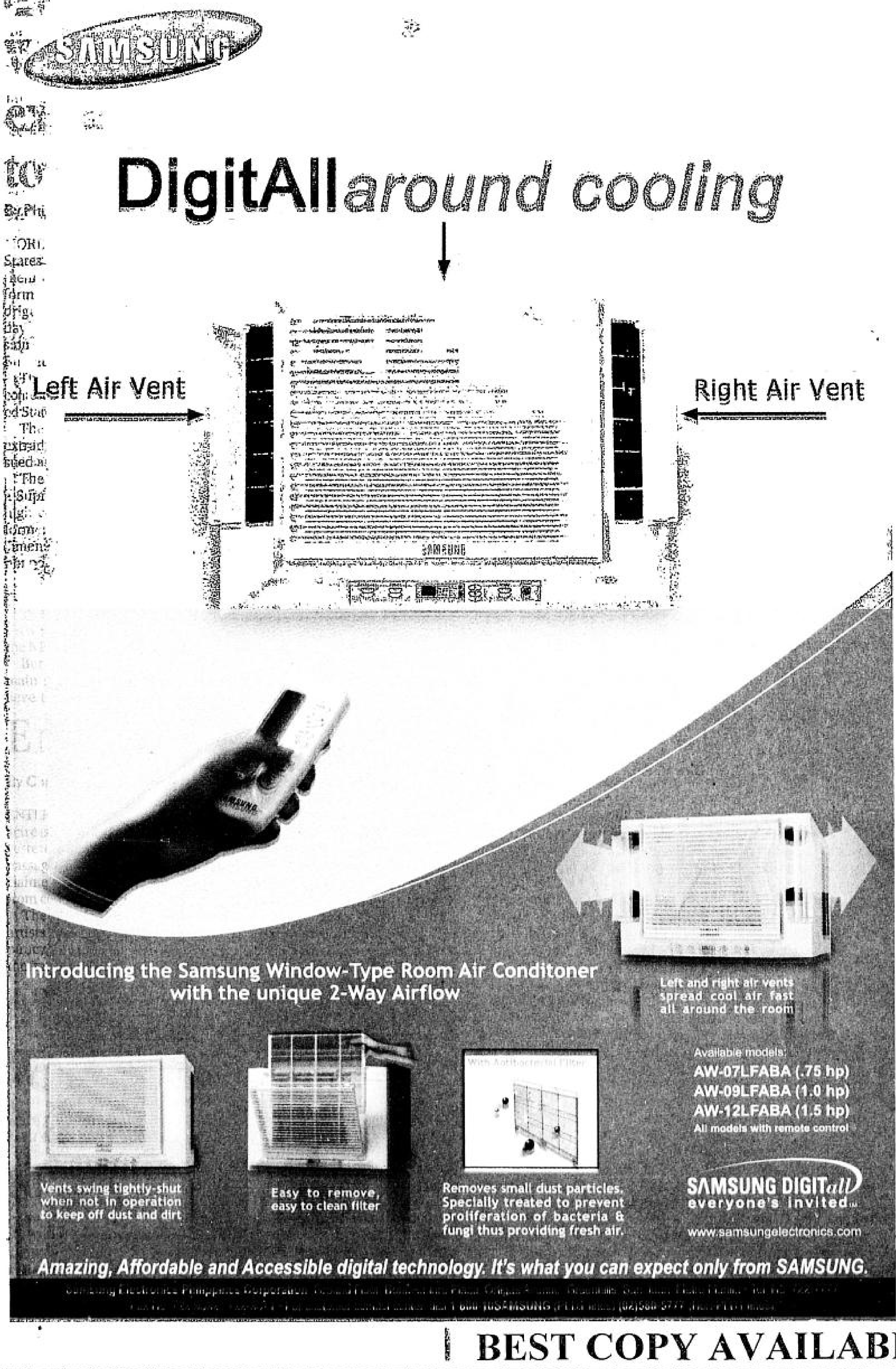
Among those who were present in yesterday's Senate hearing of the proposed Optical Media Act were movie producer Wilson Teng, and actresses Katya Santos, Andrea del Rosario, Myles Hernandez and Hazel Cabrera of "Viva Hot Babes" fame.

In a position paper submitted to Sen. Teresita Aquino-Oreta, chair of the Senate committee on public information and mass media, almost 70 percent of Filipino movies produced would lose money, while music albums would hardly break even, all because of piracy. The rampant copying and sale of unlicensed products have kept movie and music producers from staging more productions over the years.

Statistics presented in the position paper also showed that in 2000 alone, government lost P350 million to software piracy, P190 million to music piracy and P437 million to video piracy.

Under Oreta's bill, the current Videogram Regulatory Board would be replaced by an Optical Media Board with more powers to fight piracy in the movie, music and software industries.

Among the signatories of the position paper were John Lesaca, chair of the IP Coalition, Trina Belamide, president of Katha, an organization of Filipino composers, Gregorio Lainez, president of the Philippine Software Industry Association, and John Suarez, vice president for external affairs of the Movie Producers, Distributors Association of the Philippines.



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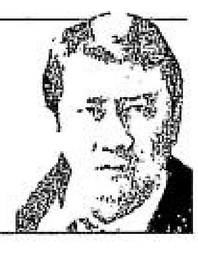
ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo



IT WAS highly unlikely President Macapagal-Arroyo talked with Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya on the phone about the fate of the Dos Palmas hostages.

It was impossible GMA was berated by Abaya.

She would not have stooped down to the level of the bandits. *Yang pagkataray ni* GMA, *pagagalitan ng* Moro ?

* * *

Former American hostage Gracia Burnham claims in her book, "In the Presence of My Enemies," said that the Moro kidnappers told their captives a general wanted 50 percent of the ransom payment.

But later in the Fox News interview, she said she was told by her captors. And she kept repeating she was told.

Those Moro pigs are good in psywar. The Abu Sayyafs knew that after their captives were free, they would tell the world all the disinformation fed to them by their captors.

* * *

It was very likely Sabaya pretended to talk to the President over the phone in the presence of the kidnapping victims. He probably gesticulated and raised his voice to the person at the other end.

Sabaya, who had lied to people negotiating for the release of the hostages, apparently told his captives he had just talked to the President of the Philippines.

A typical Moro boasts of his connections, real or imagined. And Sabaya was more than a typical Moro.

* * *

The rice, sugar and other foodstuff left on the roadside and picked up by the Abu Sayyaf bandits for their captives that Ms Burnham said came from the military probably came from the Red Cross and other humanitarian groups.

It was highly unlikely the military would give food to the enemy.

If generals or colonels fraternized with the bandits, the information would have filtered down the ranks and the newsmen would have gotten hold of it.

I had plenty of informants among the soldiers in Basilan and Sulu during the hostage negotiations for the Sipadan and Dos Palmas hostages.

I was never told by these informants about the shenanigans of top-ranking military officers as far as the Dos Palmas hostage negotiations were concerned.

* * *

But I can tell you that the negotiations for the release of the Sipadan hostages-those who were kidnapped from a Malaysian resort-were attended by irregularities.

Government negotiators in the Sipadan hostage drama, my informants said, skimmed sums off the ransom payments.

Don't ask me who those negotiators were because their names were always in the newspapers. Some of them were local officials.

* * *

One negotiator even had a direct contact with the Abu Sayyaf kidnappers in Sulu through satellite phone.

He always talked with the Moro kidnappers, and even exchanged banter with them.

This guy, who was close to President Erap, got a big cut from the ransom payments for the Sipadan hostages.

* * *

The only negotiator who was clean-and I tell you this without batting an eyelash-was Zamboanga City businessman Lepeng Wee. Wee even spent his own money to pay off middlemen who were close to the kidnappers.

Wee negotiated with the kidnappers for the release of the Malaysian hostages while the Erap aide took care of the European hostages.

Wee was later eased out because he was upstaging the Erap aide. But by that time, the businessman had already left his mark on the Malaysian hostages.

As a result of his participation in the release of the Malaysian kidnap victims, Wee won the love of the Malaysians. They consider him one of their own.

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METROBRIEFS

Stabbed dead in Malate

CARGO firm driver Jermalyn Centeno was stabbed dead after unidentified men robbed him of P120,000 which he just withdrew from a bank yesterday morning in Malate, Manila. Centeno, 40, of Beta Express International Cargo Inc. on Estrada Bautista Street, Malate, Manila, died from two stab wounds in the body after four unidentified robbers ganged up on him, said Detective Jericho Jimenez, of the Western Police District-homicide section. Centeno was walking back to the cargo firm which was three blocks away from the bank when the suspects waylaid him, stabbed him and took the money, police said. Centeno was declared dead on arrival at the Philippine General Hospital. A co-worker of Centeno also told police that he saw two men following the victim when he withdrew money from the bank last week. *Philip C. Tubeza*

Killed in San Andres

AFTER a seven-hour drinking bout, Polytechnic University of the Philippines employee Herman Parreno, 37, was stabbed dead by one of his drinking buddies on Thursday night in San Andres Bukid, Manila. Police said Parreno had invited Diosdado Sta. Ana and another man who has not been identified for a drinking spree inside the victim's apartment building. The drinking session began at about noon. Evangeline Parreno, the victim's wife, told police she sensed something had gone wrong when she heard a commotion outside their apartment unit. She said she then saw her husband slumped in a pool of blood. *Philip C. Tubeza*

Raped in Malabon

A RETIRED employee was locked up in jail on Thursday night after he was accused of raping his two granddaughters in separate incidents inside their home in Malabon City. Police arrested the 75-year-old suspect at about 7 p.m. on Thursday at his house in Potrero, Malabon, after his grandchildren, aged 12 and 15, told their uncle about the rapes, said officer-on-case PO2 Benita Terte of the Malabon Police Women's and Children's Desk. Terte said the suspect began raping his 15-year-old granddaughter in March 1999 inside their house. But he shifted his attention to his younger granddaughter in September last year. *Tina Santos*

Nabbed in Pasig

PASIG City police arrested Wilfredo Torres, 32, of Antipolo, following a tip from a concerned person who saw him trying to force open a vault with a torch inside a welding shop in Barangay Santolan. But the vault was already open and empty when police arrived to arrest Torres, who is wanted for questioning in connection with several criminal complaints that were filed in Marikina and Antipolo. *Nelson F. Flores*

Slain in Marikina

MARIKINA City police are hunting down a vendor known only as Asilo for allegedly beating to death Rolando Natablo, another vendor, during a drinking session in Barangay Calumpang yesterday midnight. Natablo, 27, and Asilo were in a drinking session when they started to argue. The suspect then took a lead pipe and repeatedly hit the victim until he fell to the ground. The suspect then stuffed the victim into a sack, fetched his family and left in a taxi. *Nelson F. Flores*

Wife of slain Japanese refuses to cooperate in police probe

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE WIFE of slain Japanese businessman Hiromasa Murakami has refused to give police her sworn statement and take a paraffin test, said city police chief Ronald Estilles.

Carmelita Murakami, 52, was sleeping beside her husband when armed men shot him to death inside their bedroom in their house in Better Living, Parañaque last Wednesday.

Only Artemio Murakami, 19, Carmelita's and Murakami's son, has agreed to take a paraffin test, Estilles said.

Carmelita's four sons by a previous marriage also refused to give police their sworn statements and take paraffin tests, he added.

Estilles said that Carmelita claimed she was too busy to take a paraffin test last Thursday, but agreed to meet with police at Holy Trinity funeral chapel in Sucat where a wake is being held for Murakami. She also promised to bring her four sons to the wake to take the tests. But she later changed her mind about taking the test, telling Insp. Richard Mangalip of the police crime laboratory said that the test might affect her health, said Estilles.

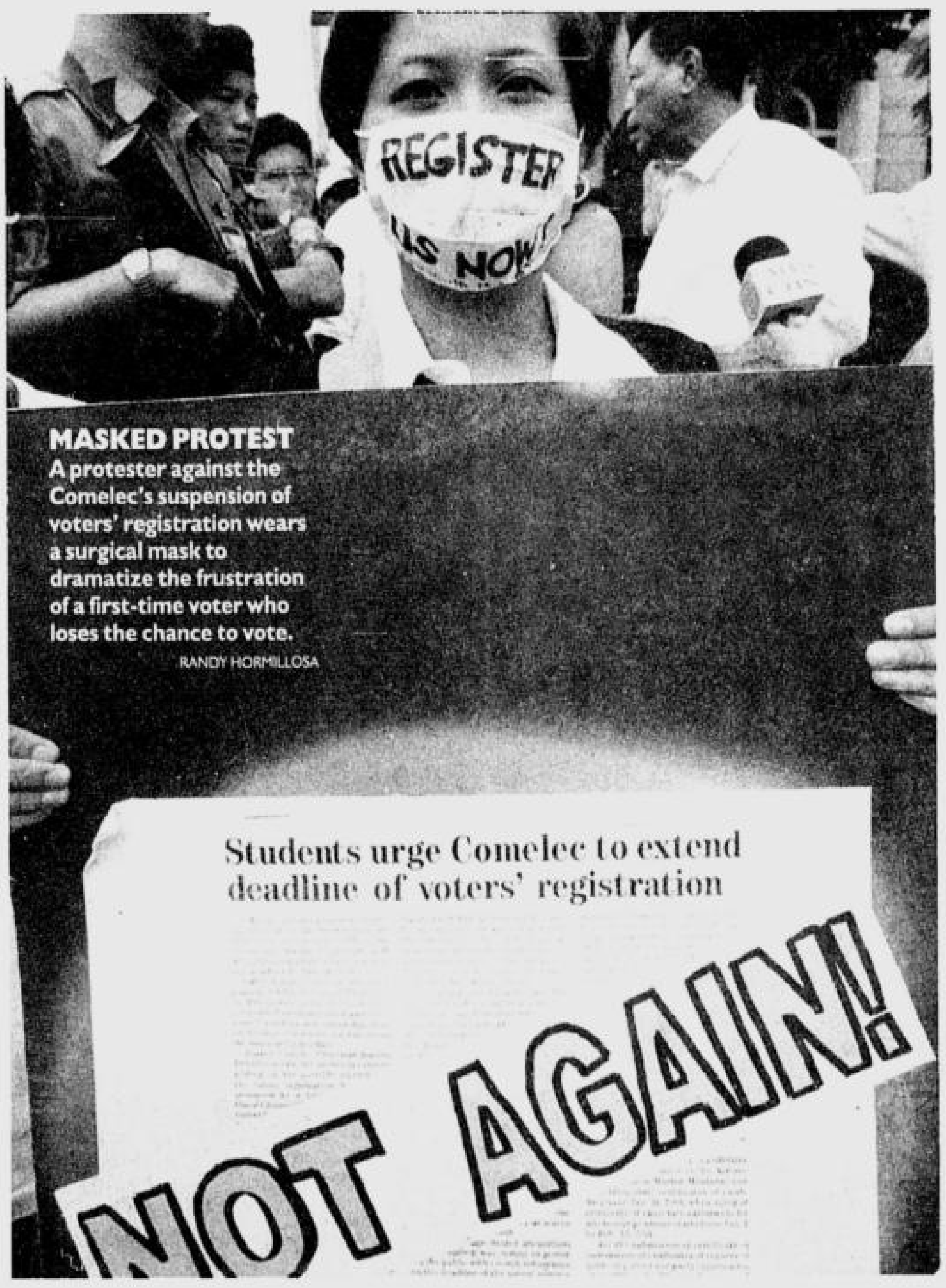
Carmelita is suffering from high blood pressure and diabetes.

"The paraffin test is a police SOP (standard operating procedure)," Estilles said. "If they didn't have anything to hide, they wouldn't hesitate to take the test."

He said that by next week, police would know if there were powder burns in the hands of the younger Murakami, who is the youngest ever Philippine amateur golf champion.

Because of the family's refusal to cooperate in the investigation of Murakami's killing, police have sought the help of the Japanese Embassy in tracing the businessman's closest friends here and in Japan.

Estilles said Murakami's friends might be able to help authorities in their investigation.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MASKED PROTEST
A protester against the Comelec's suspension of voters' registration wears a surgical mask to dramatize the frustration of a first-time voter who loses the chance to vote.
RANDY HORMILLOSA

2 traffic officers shot by men in vehicle with fake license plate

By Leila B. Salaverria, Jamie Alarcon and Khristina Villanueva

TWO members of the Traffic Management Group were shot and injured by unidentified men after they tried to stop a vehicle which they suspected had fake license plates yesterday afternoon in Makati City.

Police identified the wounded officers as PO3 Edgardo Porcioncula and PO1 Allan Eneria.

SPO4 Leonardo Timtiman said the two police officers were on patrol when they tried to flag down a blue Mitsubishi Adventure at about 2 p.m. yesterday at the corner of Edsa and Buendia Avenue in Makati.

The vehicles had about six passengers on board, police said.

The officers suspected that the vehicle's license plate (WMU-502) was counterfeit.

But when the officers got down from their mobile patrol and tried to stop the suspicious vehicle, its occupants fired at them and then sped off toward the corner of Kalayaan and Harvard streets.

Police said that when the the vehicle reached Kalayaan Street, it even ran over a tricycle.

The tricycle driver managed to jump out of the vehicle's path and was unhurt, but his tricycle was wrecked, police said.

The suspects then jumped out of the Mitsubishi Adventure and boarded a dirty white L-300 van. They then sped off toward Global City in Taguig.

Witnesses told police the suspects were brandishing short and long firearms when they transferred to the van. But the suspects left behind their ammunition, police said.

A witness told police that the L-300 van appeared to have been waiting for the suspects.

The witness added the van was packed with passengers.

One of the suspects who was on the Mitsubishi Adventure was laughing when he transferred to the van, the witness added.

The suspect was described as about 5-foot-10 tall. He has curly hair, a round face and chinky eyes, the witness said.

Porcioncula suffered a gunshot wound in the buttocks. He was brought to the Makati Medical Center for treatment.

Eneria took a bullet in the arm and the left side of his body. He was taken to the Polymedic hospital for treatment.

Timtiman said both officers are in stable condition.

Police said the suspects could have been robbers and might have been on their way to another heist.

Guards seize inmates' videoke machines

By Christian V. Esguerra

INMATES at the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa can no longer indulge in their favorite pastime after prison guards seized 12 videoke machines last Thursday at the maximum and minimum security compounds, upon the orders of Justice Undersecretary Ramon Liwag.

"Inmates are not allowed to engage in any form of business while serving time," Liwag said. "This is a flagrant violation of existing prison rules."

The videoke machines were allowed during the term of Ricardo Macala as Bureau of Corrections director.

Liwag replaced Macala on an acting capacity in the wake of a Department of Justice investigation on Macala's alleged corrupt practices at the NBP.

Macala had considered the videoke equipment as his "gift" to inmates in exchange for their loyalty and support of his policies.

Chinese-Filipino woman escapes kidnap attempt

By Tina Santos

A CHINESE-FILIPINO woman escaped a kidnap attempt by five armed men on Thursday night in Valenzuela City.

Flory Tan, 40, an assistant manager of ATC Construction, and resident of Jose Abad Santos Street in Manila, was on board her Honda Accord with three companions and were driving along Trinidad Street in Victoria Village, East Canumay, Valenzuela at 6:45 p.m. on Thursday, police said.

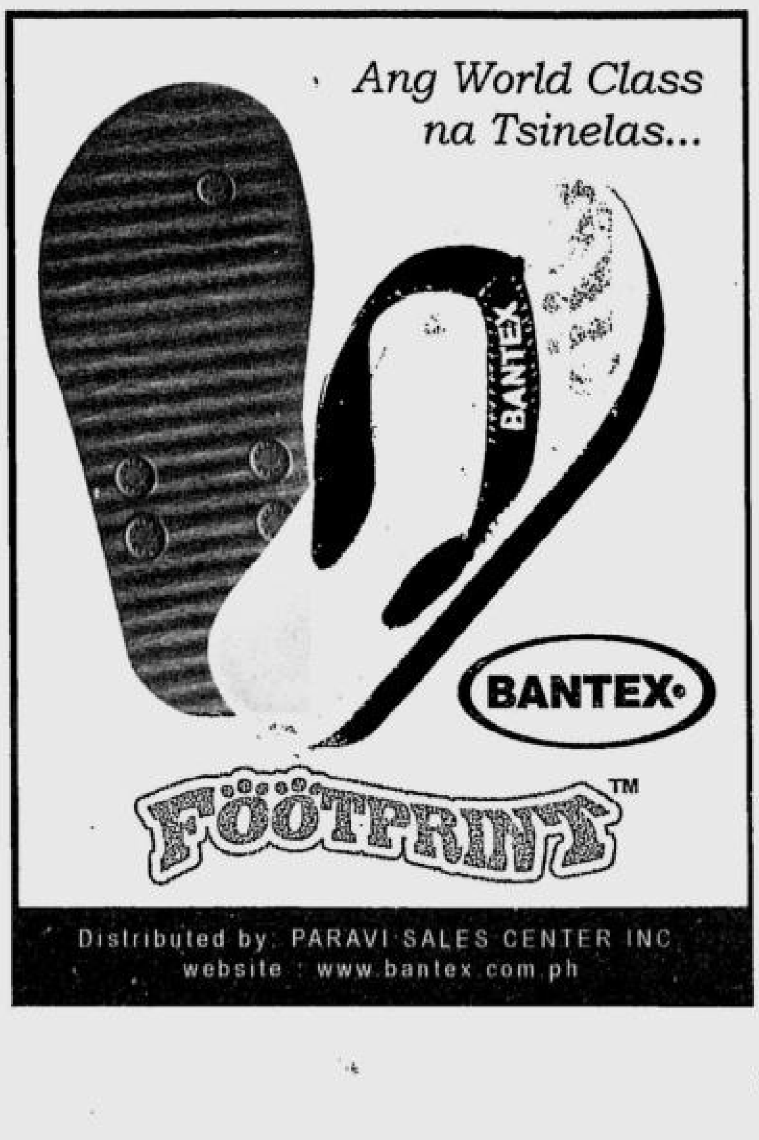
But Tan's car, which was driven by Leovino Esteron, was forced to the side of the road by a white Toyota Revo, police said.

Five armed men alighted from the Revo, which had no license plates, trained their guns at Tan's car, and ordered the passengers to alight.

But Tan's driver Esteron stepped on the gas and steered past the suspects onto the service road in Paso de Blas, and sped away.

Police said the suspects fired at Tan's car, but the occupants were unhurt.

The suspects then escaped in their vehicle toward Lawang Bato, Punturin, Valenzuela.



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FOUR DIGIT
4 7 3 7
(In exact order)

SUERTRES
6 6 8

MEGALOTTO 6/45
11 12 13 17 35 44

LATE SPORTS

Tigers advance to q'finals

GAME TODAY (Tagbilaran, Bohol)
5 p.m. — Red Bull vs Alaska

COCA Cola coach Chot Reyes can't remember how Johnny Abarrientos scored 16 points, pulled down five rebounds, issued five assists and stole twice last night.

But Purefoods surely won't forget the figures Abarrientos came up with to help the Tigers score a 97-87 victory and push the Hotdogs near elimination in the PBA Samsung All-Filipino Cup at the Philsports.

"I didn't see that 16 points, I can't recall where he (Abarrientos) got that 16 points," Reyes said.

The Tigers climbed to 8-6 and entered the quarterfinals.

FedEx clinched a tie for a quarterfinal slot when it beat Talk N Text, 116-105, in the second game. The Express tied San Miguel Beer with an 8-6 card, while pulling down the Phone Pals to 9-5.

Marc Anthony Reyes

More sports on A21-A27

THE elephant known as Jumbo has, for a few hours on Thursday, caught a glimpse of the outside world. JOAN BONDOC

'Jumbo' in heat, trainer claims

JUMBO was in heat, and the weather did not help either when the 2.5-ton circus elephant put on a show all his own in the streets of Quezon City on Thursday.

According to the Japanese trainer of the circus elephant, Shige Hayashima, Jumbo's sexual urges, coupled with the intense summer heat, most probably caused the elephant to break out of his cage and go for a 4-kilometer stroll.

The 13-year-old Jumbo (not Dumbo as earlier reported) is now in stable condition, Hayashima said.

He said the elephant has already recovered from the tranquilizers that were injected on him on Thursday.

The elephant is now confined to his quarters, with all his limbs chained to a post.

Hayashima said Jumbo would not be per-

TRAINER/A18

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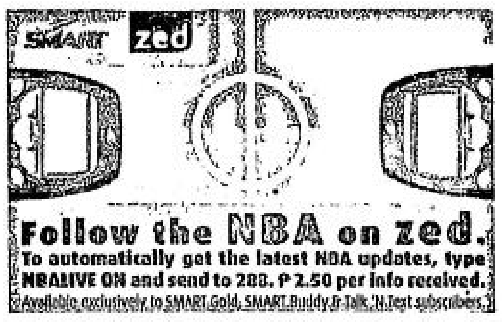
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Lanao: We're ready anytime

By Marc Anthony Reyes

LANAO del Norte Gov. Imelda Quibranza-Dimaporo graciously accepted yesterday the Philippine Sports Commission decision to indefinitely postpone the Palarong Pambansa, but stressed her province is ready to host the Games at a moment's notice.

Noting that shelving the Palaro was beyond her control, Dimaporo said her province would still continue its preparation in case the PSC decides to stage the games any time this year.

"We are of course disappointed," said Dimaporo. "But we assure everybody that this postponement has not hampered our preparations and it will never dampen our spirits.

"We are ready to stage the Games even today," she added.

PSC chair Eric Buhain cited the armed conflicts in some parts of Mindanao and the concern raised mainly by parents and athletes in his decision to postpone the Palaro set May 18-25 in the capital town of Tubod.

Buhain added he remained confident the annual sportsfest would still be held at a new date.

All six regions in Mindanao have already confirmed their participation along with Central Visayas when Buhain announced the postponement the other day.

However, the list of prospective no-shows was bigger with the National Capital Region, the perennial overall champion of the event, announcing its non-participation even before the original May 4-11 schedule was reset.

Also withdrawing were delegations from Central Luzon, Bicol, Eastern Visayas, Southern Tagalog, Ilocos and Cordillera Administrative Region.

The 16 participating regions have already received their training and transportation subsidy from the PSC which has allocated P40 million for the Palaro.

Meanwhile, Bacolod Rep. Monico Puentevella appealed to President Arroyo to make a decision on whether to hold the Palaro right away or defer it to next year because the Games can't be postponed until June.

"Postponing it until June 7 is tantamount to scrapping the Palaro this year because when the new school year begins, some Palaro athletes will enter high school or college," he said.

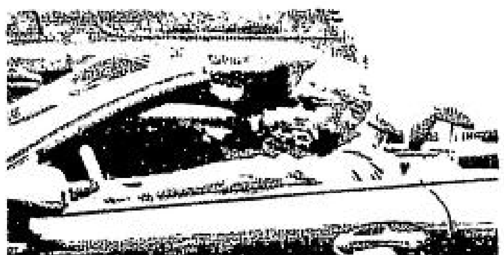
The Palaro featured only elementary and high school athletes.

He said the President must "bite the bullet" and make a decision because the Palaro is a crucial item in the calendar of Philippine sports.

Lanao del Norte has already missed hosting the Palaro twice due to the brittle peace and order situation in Mindanao.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Mavericks are marvelous /A24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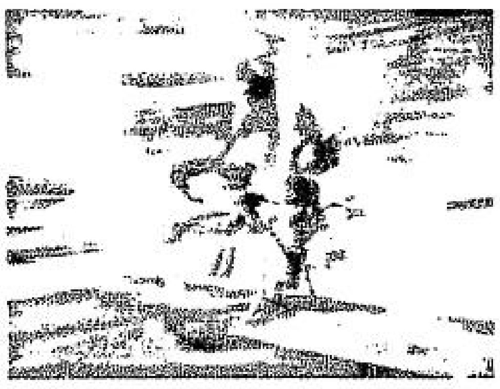
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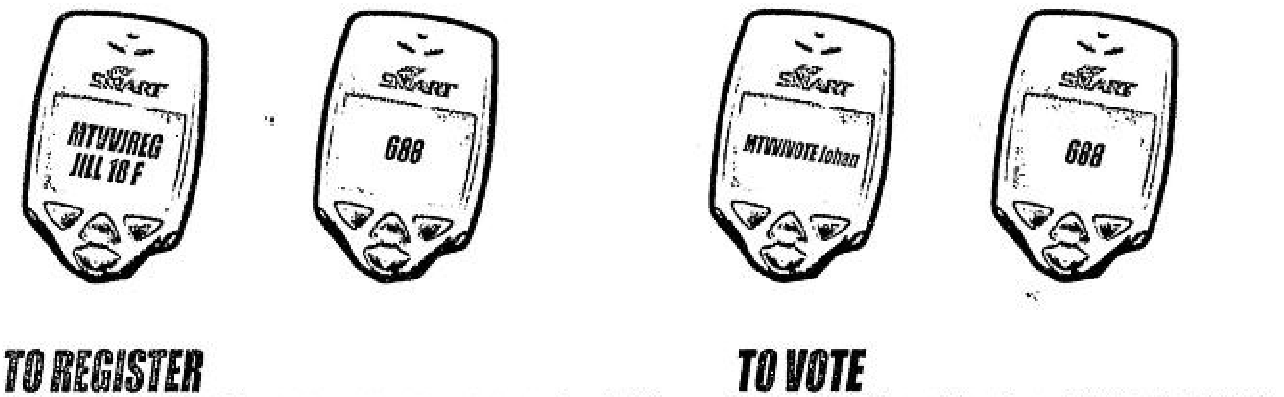

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VIRTUAL TOUR CHAMP

It's all downhill now for Quirimit

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SAN FERNANDO
CALUMPIT
PULILAN
FINISH MALOLOS

STREAKING HOME: Arnel Quirimit is but a blur, identified only by his yellow jersey, as he heads for overall victory in trhe Tour Pilipinas cycling marathon. VAL HANDUMON

By June Navarro

BAGUIO CITY—A fagged-out Arnel Quirimit virtually clinched the Tour Pilipinas 2003 bikathon championship after losing only four seconds of his overall lead in the individual time trial ruled by Ronald Gorrantes yesterday.

Nursing a slight fever due to the cold Baguio weather, Quirimit pushed himself to the limit as he charged home with a fifth best time of one hour, 20 minutes and 58 seconds for the 36-km grind through Kennon Road marking the Tour's 13th lap.

"In fact, I almost collapsed near the finish because I'm having difficulty breathing," said the 27-year-old Quirimit, who has been conceded the title with two easy laps left,in Tagalog.

Only the second-running Ryan Tanguilig refused to throw in the towel but experts are giving him only the slightest of chances to overhaul Quirimit's lead of one minute and 39 seconds.

"There are still two laps left. But if Quirimit hangs on to the lead after Bulacan, then I'll concede," said Tanguilig.

Today's penultimate stage is a massed start race from Agoo, La Union to Malolos, Bulacan followed by the 115-km final lap in Manila tomorrow.

Gorrantes grabbed the day's spotlight by ruling the race against the clock from the Rosario junction in one hour, 18 minutes and 15 seconds.

He advanced from eighth to sixth overall and secured the P30,000 prize as lap winner.

Lloyd Reynante came home second in 1:19:50 while Joel Calderon took third in 1:20:32.

Tanguilig, bucking a hurting left ankle, struggled in the first 10 kilometers before overtaking Merculio Ramos at the Baguio General Hospital to finish with a fourth best time of 1:20:54.

Quirimit, who stands to win P200,000 as overall winner, was fifth in 1:20:58.

Ramos was the first to concede the championship to Quirimit as he remained third overall, five minutes and seven seconds off the lead.

"With the Baguio laps over, only slight changes are bound to happen in the last two stages. Arnel is a shoo-in to win the crown," said Ramos.

Ramos held the yellow jersey for six straight days from Daet, Camarines Norte to Vigan, Ilocos Sur before relinquishing the overall lead to Quirimit in Laoag City.

"The injuries I sustained after a spill in the sixth lap affected my condition in the succeeding stages," said Ramos.

Warren Davadilla, the 1998 Tour champion, remained fourth overall,5:25 behind Quirimit,followed by Reynante, Gorrantes, Enrique Domingo, Bernard Luzon, Renato Dolosa and Felix Celeste. completed the top 10 in the race for the P200,000 overall champion's prize.

Placido Valdez, winner of the dreaded San Fernando-Baguio City stage on Thursday, was named King of the Mountain over Quirimit and bagged P30,000.

Although both riders garnered 32 points each, officials bestowed the award to Valdez for hurdling the most difficult lap in the schedule.

The individual clockings of the riders yesterday had no effect on the team standings where Intel seemed sure of the P1-million top prize.

With 359.8 kilometers left, Intel has accummulated a total time of 185 hours, 23 minutes and 37 seconds, 43 minutes and 16 seconds ahead of Tanduay.

Race officials altered today's route to prevent the expected traffic mess in Apalit, Pampanga. From San Fernando, Pampanga, the Tour will veer away from McArthur Highway on the way to Malolos, Bulacan, thus stretching the 199.8-kilometer lap to another 10 kilometers.

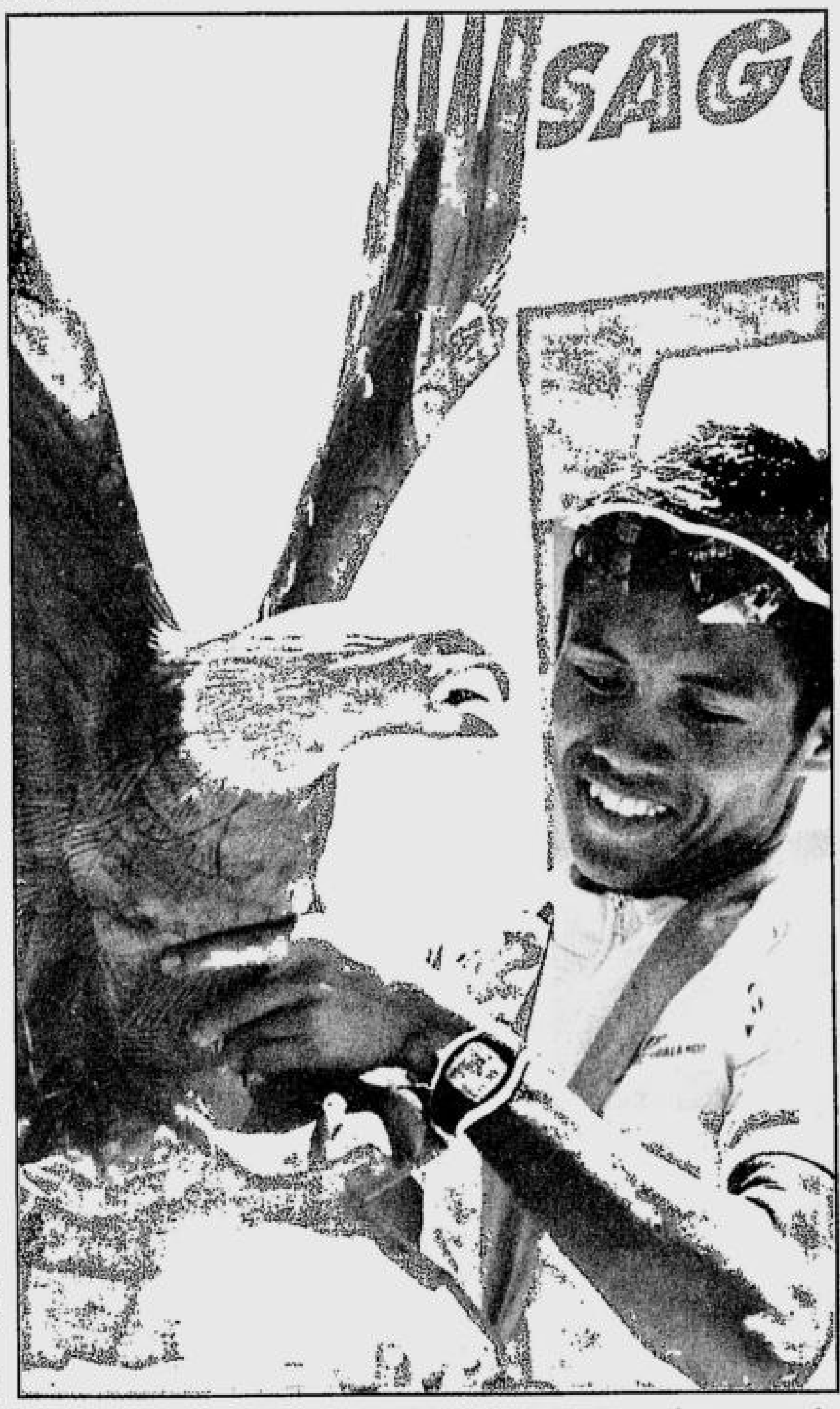
Meanwhile, officials announced a minimum suspension of two years for any rider found using banned substance or performance-enhancing drugs.

The decision came a day after Tour Pilipinas physician Rizaldy Bulatao took the urine samples of the top five riders of the San Fernando-Baguio City lap on Thursday.

The urine samples were immediately taken to the PNP Crime Laboratory here for storage and will be sent to the Makati Medical Center via Air21 for testing.

The results will later be shipped to either Tokyo, Japan or Melbourne, Australia, countries where state-of-the-art, anti-doping facilities exist.

Officials said a lifetime ban from the Tour may be imposed as maximum penalty for drug cheats.



EAGLE OF THE MOUNTAIN: Ronald Gorantes holds the trophy as mountain king of the Tour Pilipinas after yesterday's 13th lap. VAL HANDUMON

Ritual of love for Earl

SAPELINO

BAGUIO CITY—One might have known Earl "The Pearl" Sapelino simply as the energetic voice behind the blow-by-blow account of the Tour Pilipinas 2003 bikathon radio coverage.

Yet unknown to many, it's not just the job of bringing the action to the homes of thousands of cycling fanatics across the land that delights Sapelino.

More than anything else, Sapelino swears it's the obsession with the sport that seduces him to participate in the Tour year after year.

"It's a yearly ritual for me because every Tour is a memorable one. I love the cyclists and I'm in love with the sport," said Sapelino, a fixture in the radio coverage of the Tour for more than three decades.

Sapelino unravels the action in the Tour for Sports Radio (DZSR 918) along with veteran broadcasters Ricky Yap Santos, Carlos Inductivo and Judith Caringal.

Earl's love for the sport is deeply rooted, having been an integral part of the Tour entourage since 1969 when the summer bikathon was then known as Tour ng Pilipinas.

Earl, now 59, had seen champions come and go and witnessed how the organization changed hands before it landed on the lap of Airfreight 2100 chairman Bert Lina last year.

"When I heard that the Tour will be revived, I just can't wait to get back on the road," said Sapelino, whose five children grew up hearing the voice of their father covering the Tour each summer.

After retiring as station manager of the Philippine Broadcasting Service in 1992, Sapelino gave up a large chunk of his time to serve cycling as official of the now-defunct Professional Cycling Association of the Philippines.

Back then, the PCAP, headed by lawyers Mat Defensor and Cornelio Padilla Jr., managed the conduct of the bikathon with Marlboro as title sponsor.

The PCAP became the Philippine National Cycling Association last January but it remained responsible for assuring the smooth outcome of the Tour.

With Sapelino as secretary general, the PNCA is also busy trying to unify all parties involved in the sport.

"Cycling doesn't have a healthy environment because of contending groups," said Sapelino, referring to the PNCA's differences with the Philippine Amateur Cycling Association, which remains in the midst of a leadership crisis.

"We keep on saying in the past that in order to solve the problem, we must organize and come up with a federation that would consolidate all cycling clubs across the land," said Sapelino.

"That's the first important step to strengthen the sport because as of now, many people want to dip their fingers into the bowl which is unhealthy for cycling," he added. *June Navarro*

Overall Standings

RANK	RIDER		TEAM	TIME
1	ARNEL	QUIRIMIT	TAN	47h13'13.202
2	RHYAN	TANGUILIG	PAG	00h01'39.052
3	MERCULIO	RAMOS	SAM	00h05'07.801
4	WARREN	DAVADILLA	INT	00h05'25.631
5	LLOYD	REYNANTE	PAG	00h09'35.831
6	RONALD	GORRANTES	ECO	00h13'22.991
7	ENRIQUE	DOMINGO	POS	00h13'51.243
8	BERNARD	LUZON	PAT	00h18'13.850
9	RENATO	DOLOSA	GIL	00h25'20.012
10	FELIX	CELESTE	VAT	00h26'21.765
11	SANTI	BARNACHEA	BOW	00h28'03.772
12	FREDERICK	FELICIANO	DRU	00h29'00.172
13	ALBERT	PRIMERO	PLD	00h30'30.603
14	ALFIE	CATALAN	BOW	00h32'19.041
15	DANNY	GANIGAN	SAM	00h32'53.986
16	PLACIDO	VALDEZ	DRU	00h35'18.621
17	JOSEPH	MILLANES	TAN	00h36'41.642
18	ARNOLD	MARCELO	POS	00h39'57.515
19	LITO	ATILANO	GIL	00h54'01.200
20	CARLO	JAZUL	ECO	00h59'26.143
21	FERNANDO	ALAGANO	INT	00h59'57.581
22	JOEL	CALDERON	VAT	01h01'04.654
23	SHERWIN	DIAMSAY	VAT	01h06'27.903
24	REYNALDO	NAVARRO	POS	01h21'02.282

13TH LAP STANDINGS

RANK	RIDER		TEAM	TIME
1	RONALD	GORRANTES	ECO	01h18'15.410
2	LLOYD	REYNANTE	PAG	00h01'35.2
3	JOEL	CALDERON	VAT	00h02'17.35
4	RHYAN	TANGUILIG	PAG	00h02'39.12
5	ARNEL	QUIRIMIT	TAN	00h02'42.77
6	WARREN	DAVADILLA	INT	00h04'04.17
7	PLACIDO	VALDEZ	DRU	00h04'25.26
8	FREDERICK	FELICIANO	DRU	00h04'33.54
9	MERCULIO	RAMOS	SAM	00h04'39.51
10	LITO	ATILANO	GIL	00h04'43.13
11	DANNY	GANIGAN	SAM	00h05'02.73
12	ARNOLD	MARCELO	POS	00h05'41.47
13	SANTI	BARNACHEA	BOW	00h06'00.34
14	RENATO	DOLOSA	GIL	00h06'15.58
15	CARLO	GUIEB	ECO	00h07'21.78
16	ALBERT	PRIMERO	PLD	00h08'00.7
17	BERNARD	LUZON	PAT	00h08'10.35
18	ENRIQUE	DOMINGO	POS	00h08'15.6
19	FELIX	CELESTE	VAT	00h08'28.55
20	ALFIE	CATALAN	BOW	00h09'16.59
21	RYAN	MENDOZA	PAT	00h09'43.11
22	JOEL	GUILLEN	PAG	00h09'51.1
23	JOSEPH	MILLANES	TAN	00h09'55.11
24	MICHAEL	PRIMERO	GIL	00h09'59.09

TEAM STANDINGS AS OF LAP !2

PL	TEAM	TIMED	DEFICIT
1	INTEL	185h23'37.0	
2	TANDUAY RHUM RIDERS	186h06'53.8	00h43'16.00
3	POSTMEN	186h10'17.4	00h46'40.44
4	SAMSUNG	186h12'31.8	00h48'54.79
5	ECO SAVERS	186h26'05.8	01h02'28.81
6	VAT RIDERS	186h53'39.7	01h30'02.71
7	PATROL 117	187h21'33.4	01h57'56.42
8	PAGCORSPORTS	187h22'12.7	01h58'35.71
9	BOWLING GOLD	187h58'33.8	02h34'56.86
10	GILBEYS ISLAND PUNCH	188h39'37.5	03h16'00.51
11	DRUG BUSTERS	188h46'09.4	03h22'32.43
12	PLDT-NDD	190h21'43.2	04h58'06.24

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B. Luzon 18:13
E. Domingo 13:51
R. Gorrantes 13:22
L. Reynante 9:35
W. Davadilla 5:25
M. Ramos 5:07
R.Tanguilig 1:39 behind
A.Quirimit 47h 13:13
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Vietnam chess zonal is on again

TORRE

FILIPINO grandmaster Eugene Torre yesterday welcomed the announcement that the 3.2 Asian Zonal individual chess championships would finally push through June 20-30 in Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam.

"I'm thoroughly prepared for this tournament. Its postponement has given me ample time to review my past games," said the 51-year-old Torre, who has manned the top board for the Philippines in 17 Chess Olympiads.

Originally slated April 29 to May 7, the tournament was moved to the new date because of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome which gripped the region.

The organizing Vietnam Chess Federation and Ho Chi Minh City Sports Development decided to go ahead with the tournament after getting a clearance from the World Health Organization that Vietnam is already "SARS-free."

"This (Asian Zonal) is another opportunity to hone our skills for the coming Southeast Asian Games. In my view, the Vietnamese and the Indonesians would be our toughest opponents," said Torre, citing Vietnamese GM Nguyen Anh Dung in particular. Dung ruled the 2000 Asian Zonal held in Manila and emerged the 2003 Commonwealth chess champion in Mumbai, India last month.

Joining Torre in the tournament which serves as a qualifier to the world chess championship are GM Joey Antonio, GM Bong Villamayor, GM-candidate Mark Paragua and National Open long game champion NM Ronald Dableo in the men's division and WGM-candidate Arianne Bo Caoile in the women's side.

Torre said the absence of Indon GM Utut Adianto and Vietnamese GM Dao Thien Hai, both of whom have qualified for the world chess championship by way of the 4th Asian chess championship in February, has also boosted the Filipinos' chances of ruling the tournament. *Roy Luarca*

SARS-FREE SEA GAMES

It's go for RP in Vietnam

By Dennis U. Eroa

THE PHILIPPINES is definitely competing in the 22nd Southeast Asian Games in Vietnam this December.

Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit announced this yesterday after host Vietnam was declared SARS-free by the World Health Organization recently.

"Vietnam is ready. It is now SARS-free, according to the WHO," Dayrit told the weekly Scoop sa Kamayan in West Avenue, Quezon City. "As the situation improves in other countries, I am hopeful that the SEA Games will have full participation."

Dayrit's announcement allayed fears that the SEAG, hosted two years ago by Malaysia, would be postponed due to the killer Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome.

Many international sporting events, including the SEABA basketball tournament with Manila as host, have been postponed due to SARS. Local officials are still undecided whether to reset the Asian softball championship which will start on May 31.

"The training of our athletes are in progress and so far, 300 of them have already met the criteria set by the Task Force," said POC vice president Steve Hontiveros, also the chair of the technical commission tasked to screen the Filipino athletes competing in Vietnam.

Dayrit did not comment on the country's chances this year in the session sponsored by Photokina Marketing, but he praised the athletes in the 2001 KL SEAG, where the Philippines duplicated its fifth place finish in 1998 in Brunei after taking 30 golds on top of 66 silver and 67 bronze medals.

The country had a bumper harvest of 91 golds during the 1991 Manila SEA Games, losing by a single gold to overall winner Indonesia. The country steadily slipped in the medal race since then.

It won 57 golds in Singapore (1993), 33 in Chiang Mai, Thailand (1995), 43 in Jakarta (1997), 30 in 1999 (Brunei) and 30 in 2001 (Malaysia).

"The big guns like Indonesia,Thailand and Malaysia have shown no signs of slowing down. Vietnam, fourth placer in KL, is also a major force," Dayrit said.

Dayrit also reaffirmed the POC's commitment to fight drug abuse. "The POC supports the campaign initiated by the Swiss-based World Anti-Doping agency in cooperation with the IOC regarding the taking of banned substances," he said.

"As a general rule, NOC's which failed to support the movement will not be allowed to compete in the Olympics slated next year in Athens," said Dayrit.

Hope springs eternal for Welcoat

GAMES TODAY *(Pasig Sports Center)*
2 p.m.—Blu Star vs. Nutri-licious
4 p.m.—Viva Mineral Water vs. Welcoat

By Dennis U. Eroa

HOPE springs eternal for All-Star and Welcoat coach Leo Austria.

After losing their first three games, Austria's charges bounced back mightily, finishing their elimination campaign with a respectable 5-5 card in the Sunkist-PBL Unity Cup.

Welcoat actually finished in a four-way tie with LBC, Viva and Montaña, but fell short of getting an automatic semifinals berth due to the quirks of the quotient system.

"I remain confident that we can make it," said Austria, owner of three PBL titles. "My charges are determined to keep Welcoat's winning tradition."

Welcoat, parading a star-studded lineup composed of Romel Adducul and Eddie Laure, won the Challenge Cup last January but isn't considered the favorite this Conference due to its lack of big names.

Austria's magic, however, is working for Welcoat. Even without starting point guard Paul Artadi, Austria has been successful in shuffling his veterans and young players.

2 long distance aces make it to RP track pool

TWO long-distance aces made it to the national pool while three mainstays were taken off the RP roster yesterday in a revamp based on their performances in the recent national open track and field championship.

Joining the athletics team now preparing for the Southeast Asian Games in Vietnam this December were double gold medalist Rene Herrera and men's 5,000-meter champion Julius Sermona.

Removed from the list of SEAG aspirants were steeplechaser Taud Mama, who won a silver medal in the Kuala Lumpur SEAG two years ago, pole vaulter Eduard Obiena and shot put specialist Nixon Mas.

The 24-year-old Herrera stunned KL SEA Games 800-meter champion John Lozada to win the gold in the 1,500n meters and prevailed in the 3,000 steeplechase clocking nine minutes and .2 seconds that equalled Eduardo Buenavista's winning time two years ago in Malaysia.

Buenavista,who won the steeplechase and 5,000 in the 2002 SEAG, will concentrate on the 5,000 and 10,000 in Vietnam.

The 22-year-old Sermona ran the 5,000 in 14:58.34, almost a minute slower than Buenavista's gold-winning time.

Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association head Go Teng Kok said the revamp was part of "our determined bid to surpass our performance in the SEA Games in Kuala Lumpur," where the athletics squad captured nine golds overall. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

SPORTSTV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

BASKETBALL: Nets vs Celtics, Game 3; 8 a.m. (r - 8 p.m.); Solar Sports - New Jersey holds a commanding 2-0 advantage, but the Leprechaun may bring good luck to the men in green as the scene shifts to Boston.

NBA Action; 10 a.m. (r - 7:30 p.m.); ESPN - Get updated with all the NBA information you can handle in this half-hour program.

Spurs vs Lakers, Game 3; 10:30 a.m. (r - 8 p.m.), ESPN - Including the playoffs, San Antonio is 6-0 against Los Angeles this season. Is the Laker dynasty destined to end via sweep?

NBA Inside Stuff; 3:30 p.m. (r); Star Sports - Catch the latest NBA news and highlights in this show hosted by Ahmad Rashad and Summer Sanders.

TENNIS: Telecom Italia Masters; 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 8 p.m. and 11:30 p.m.; Star Sports -It's gut - check time as only the best will survive the quarterfinal and semifinal rounds in Italy.

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SPORTSWATCH

NGAP holds 4-day clinic

FELICIANO

A FOUR-DAY clinic started the National Golf Association of the Philippines' summer youth program yesterday at the Golf Masters Driving Range in Maa, Davao City. The clinic, to be conducted by Dick Villalon, the country's first junior amateur champion, will also have its stops in the Visayas and Metro Manila. NGAP president Rod Feliciano graced the opening of the program backed by the DHL Worldwide, WWW Express and Philippine Golf Foundation. Coordinated by NGAP director for Mindanao Anthony Sasin, the Davao clinic will end May 12 with the Pueblo de Oro range hosting the next leg May 13-17 in Cagayan de Oro City. Cebu, through new NGAP director for Visayas Renato Dychangco, will then host the Visayas leg at Alta Vista on May 18-19 and at the Cebu Country Club range on May 20-21 before Bacolod takes its turn on May 22-25. The program ends with the Manila leg June 7-8, and June 14-15. For details, contact NGAP at 525-6987 or 524-5160 and fax 521-1587.

Gent's Cup tomorrow

WIND BLOWN

WIND Blown, local racing's most celebrated galloper, targets a record third straight victory when the PCSO First Gentleman's Cup is held tomorrow at the Sta. Ana Park. The three-time Horse of the Year ruled the last two editions of the event staking a total prize pot of P1.7 million, with P1.1 million guaranteed to the winner. Sponsored by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) in cooperation with the Philippine Racing Club, the main race is set over 2,050 meters. Unlike in the past two editions, Wind Blown is not facing any serious challenger this year other than the heavy handicap weight of 62 kg he would have to carry over the distance. Jockey Fernando Raquel Jr., the champ's rider in his last two Silver Cup victories, will again partner the multi-titled 6-year-old horse by Hazm (USA) and Wind in my Hair (USA)."I don't think the starting post positions will have any effect on the outcome of the race since the distance is quite lengthy at 2,050 meters. The race would in all likelihood be decided by strategy and conditioning," said Wind Blown's owner, businessman-sportsman Herminio "Hermie" Esguerra.

Umadhay enters semis

CADIZ—Marvin Umadhay subdued Mark Cabag, 6-3, 4-6, 6-0, and followed it up with a 6-4, 6-2 victory over JR Dominguez to enter the semifinal round of the boys' 12-under division of the 2003 Milo Junior Tennis Cup & Regional Workshop at the Cadiz Tennis Club here. Opposing Umadhay next will be Jovary Miravalles, who routed Joner Cusay, 6-0, 6-0. The other semifinal pits Elper Lachica, a 6-1, 6-0 victor over Jan Carmona; against Genesis Pavillar, who routed Peter Villas, 6-1, 6-0 in the Milo netfest organized by CTW and supported by Wilson balls, Adidas and Sports Kids with a Group-3 sanction from Philta R-6 VP Dr. Rex Jalandoon. Gerard Bergavera stayed on course for a double championship following triumphs over Singh de la Torre, 6-2, 6-3, and Artchie Famini 6-1, 6-4, in the boys' 14-under quarterfinals in both divisions.

Zoleta, Culaba hurdle foes

BIEN Zoleta and Denise Culaba downed separate rivals yesterday to lead the girls' 18-under quarterfinalist in the Philta Age-Group Championship at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. Zoleta routed Marianne Salvacion, 6-0, 6-3, while Culaba downed Kaye Lacanilao, 6-1, 6-4. Other winners were Alyssa Labay over Stephanie Tecson, 6-0, 6-2, Michelle Panis over Melissa Orteza, 6-2, 6-0, Ma. angelica Ngo over Patricia Adaza, 3-6, 6-1, 6-2, Kristel Ann Samala over Jesusa Flores, 6-0, 6-0, Tracy Bautista over Noelle Nanangas, 6-1, 6-0 and Ivy de Castro over Joan Bibal, 6-2, 6-1.

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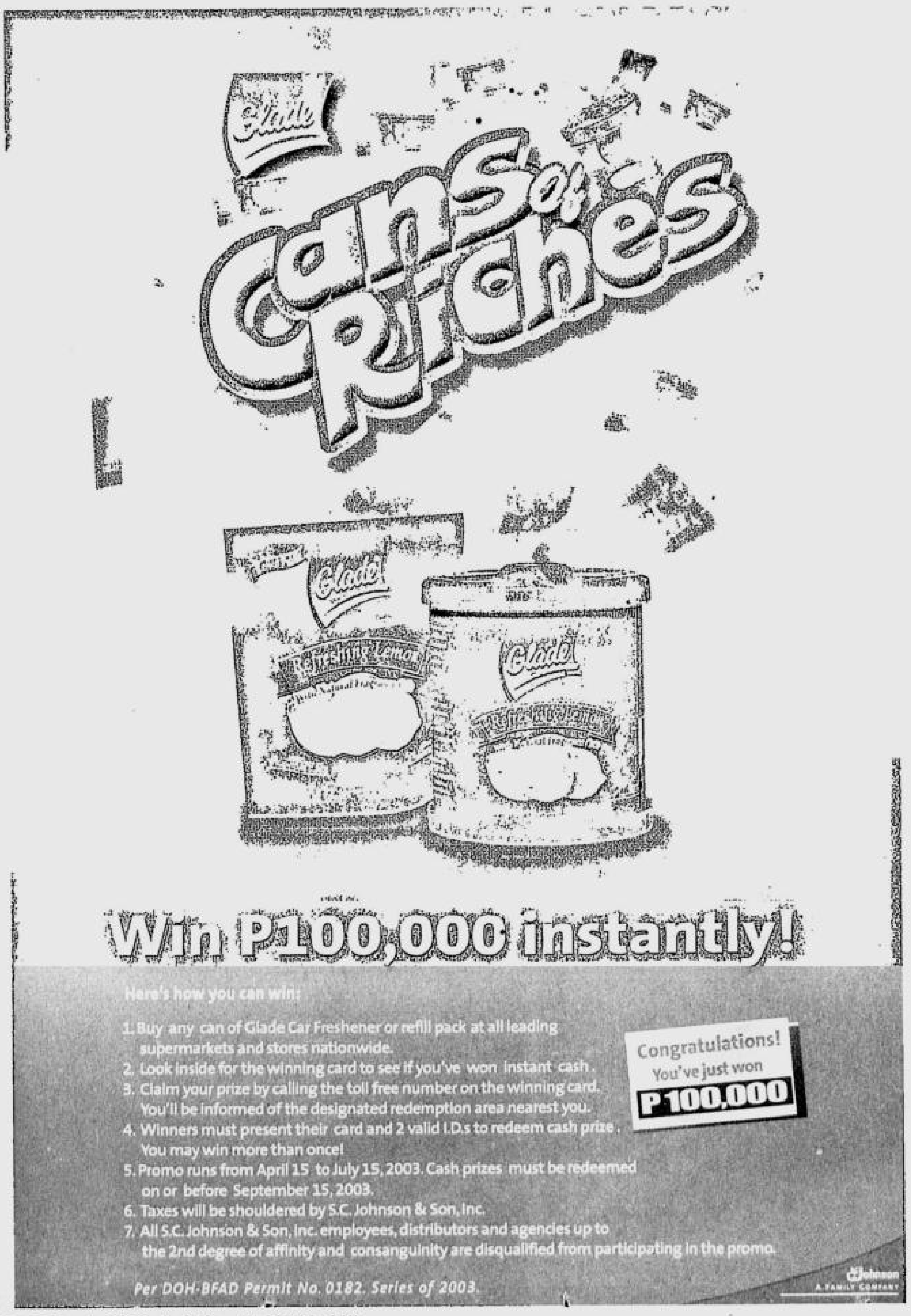

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NBA PLAYOFFS 2003

SECOND ROUND

Eastern Conference

(1) Detroit vs. (4) Philadelphia

Pistons 2, Sixers 0
Game 1: Detroit 98, Philadelphia 87
Game 2: Detroit 104, Philadelphia 97
Game 3 at Philadelphia (May 11, 7 a.m.)
Game 4 at Philadelphia (May 12, 8 a.m.)
*Game 5 at Detroit (May 15, TBD)
*Game 6 at Philadelphia (May 17, TBD)
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(2) New Jersey vs (6) Boston

Nets 2, Celtics 0
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Marvelous Mavs topple NBA records

DALLAS—Nick Van Exel led a second-quarter explosion and scored 36 points on Thursday as Dallas evened their National Basketball Association second-round series with a record-setting 132-110 victory over Sacramento.

Although the NBA's best offensive teams were expected to play a high-scoring series, no one could have anticipated this.

The teams tied a playoff record for points in a first quarter and Dallas broke the mark for points in a first half.

At a breakneck pace, no one was better than Van Exel, a small guard who occasionally has a big mouth but comes through in big games.

He scored 26 points in Game 7 against Portland and was the most vociferous Maverick after their discouraging home loss to Sacramento in Game 1.

"Offense was really our best defense," said Dallas' Dirk Nowitzki. "We didn't really keep them from scoring, but we pushed it right back at them.

"That's the tempo we've got to go," added Nowitzki, who said the Mavericks were "sleep walking" in Game 1.

Van Exel scored 13 points in a 30-7 spurt that looked like a clinic in transition basketball. On consecutive possessions, he drilled three 3-pointers in 80 seconds.

The outburst turned a 44-40 lead after one quarter into a blowout.

Steve Nash's layup with 18 seconds to go in the first half gave Dallas an 83-59 lead and broke the record for points in a half shared by the 1983 San Antonio Spurs and 1987 Los Angeles Lakers, both against Denver.

Van Exel made 14-of-19 shots overall and 5-of-8 3-pointers to lead scorching shooting by the Mavs. They shot 51 percent (51-of-99), including 17-of-32 from the arc.

"They took it to us all night long," said Kings coach Rick Adelman. "We had no answers tonight." Nowitzki and Michael Finley scored 24 points apiece and Nash added 19 for third-seeded Dallas, which heads to Sacramento for games three and four on Saturday and Sunday.

The third-seeded Kings may have lost more than a game.

All-Star forward Chris Webber injured his

MAVERICK HERO: Dallas' Van Exel drives to the bask against Sacramento's Bobb Jackson in a play typical of t Dallas guard's devastating demolition of the Kings.

MENACING MAVERICK: Dallas forward Dirk Nowitzki (left) works the ball against Sacramento guard Peja Stojakovic during first half of the lopsided Game 2 of their series.
REUTERS

Ainge: No deal with Celtics

New Jersey—Danny Ainge said Thursday he had two one-hour meetings with the new owners of the Boston Celtics but no deal has been completed for him to return to the franchise.

Ainge, who played for the Celtics, was offered the job of head of basketball operations, according to The Boston Globe. The team will make a more formal presentation when Ainge is in Boston on Friday night to serve as a television analyst for Game 3 of the Celtics' playoff series with New Jersey, according to The Boston Herald.

Broadcast reports said he was offered the job of team president.

Chris Wallace is the current general manager and head of basketball operations. Former coach Red Auerbach is the team president.

"While my long-term goals of running a franchise have been well publicized, no deal has been completed and no deal has been signed," Ainge said in a statement issued Thursday by TNT, which will televise Friday's game.

Michael Jordan no front-office wizard

NEW YORK—Even Michael Jordan's most inspired front-office move failed.

He signed the best player available—himself—and it still wasn't enough.

Jordan's front-office washout in Washington was just the latest example of a superstar whose talents on the playing field didn't mean much in the executive suite.

He hired coach Leonard Hamilton, whose team went 19-63. Then he played two seasons, failing to take the Wizards to the playoffs and creating a locker room full of sniping and second-guessing.

There's a big difference between knowing how to dunk and dribble and knowing how to get skilled players who work well together.

Take Larry Bird and Magic Johnson when they were coaches. Bird surrounded himself with Rick Carlisle and Dick Harter as assistants and took the Indiana Pacers to the NBA Finals. A frustrated Johnson walked away from the Los Angeles Lakers after 16 games.

Few people made the transition more seamlessly than Jerry West, a Hall of Fame player who crafted a dynasty as the Los Angeles Lakers' front-office boss.

"It is a difficult transfer of skills," said West, who now runs the Memphis Grizzlies. "If you've been a great player, the natural inclination is that it will be an easy transition. I think there is a lot of correlation between what he did as a player and what he should be able to do in the front office.

"The first thing is understanding the rules, the salary cap and what you can do and can't do. Then you look at a player and ask if he can play a role for us."

And then you hope for the best.

Misjudgments are part of the business. Great players rarely make them. Every administrator eventually makes them.

"This is a difficult environment," West said. "As a player, you're in control. In this business, you get the most second-guessing you can imagine. When they call someone a genius, don't believe that."

For his part, Jordan argued he wasn't given enough time to turn the Wizards around.

"I have never backed down from a challenge," Jordan said, "and I'm disappointed that I wasn't given the opportunity to make this franchise one of proud tradition."

Bob Cousy knows all about going from on-court success to off-court struggles.

When he played, he was the best point guard in the game, architect of six Boston Celtics championship teams. Then he tried coaching the Cincinnati Royals and never again won more games than he lost.

Cousy was so frustrated with the Royals, he even came out of retirement to play briefly, a sort of living instruction manual. It didn't work—and neither did his team.

"The outstanding athlete who experiences success maybe has less patience than those who don't," Cousy said. "I always felt I had plenty of patience with athletes who tried as hard as they could.

"If you get less production from athletes you coach, it's easier to be patient if they have no skill. But if they're not giving effort, you lose patience."

Cousy laughed at criticism of Heat coach Pat Riley, who struggled this season after past successes.

"It's the talent you have or don't have that determines winning or losing," Cousy said. "If you don't have the players, the rest doesn't matter."

Maybe that was what went wrong for Jordan in Washington.

Hall of Famer Bill Walton had a message for him: Stick with it.

"There is no transfer of skills," Walton said. "The only transfer is to maintain the core of human values. The same things that made Michael a great player he has to use to make himself great at whatever else he does. He will succeed. Absolutely."

Cleveland Cavaliers owner Gordon Gund also believes in Jordan's skills.

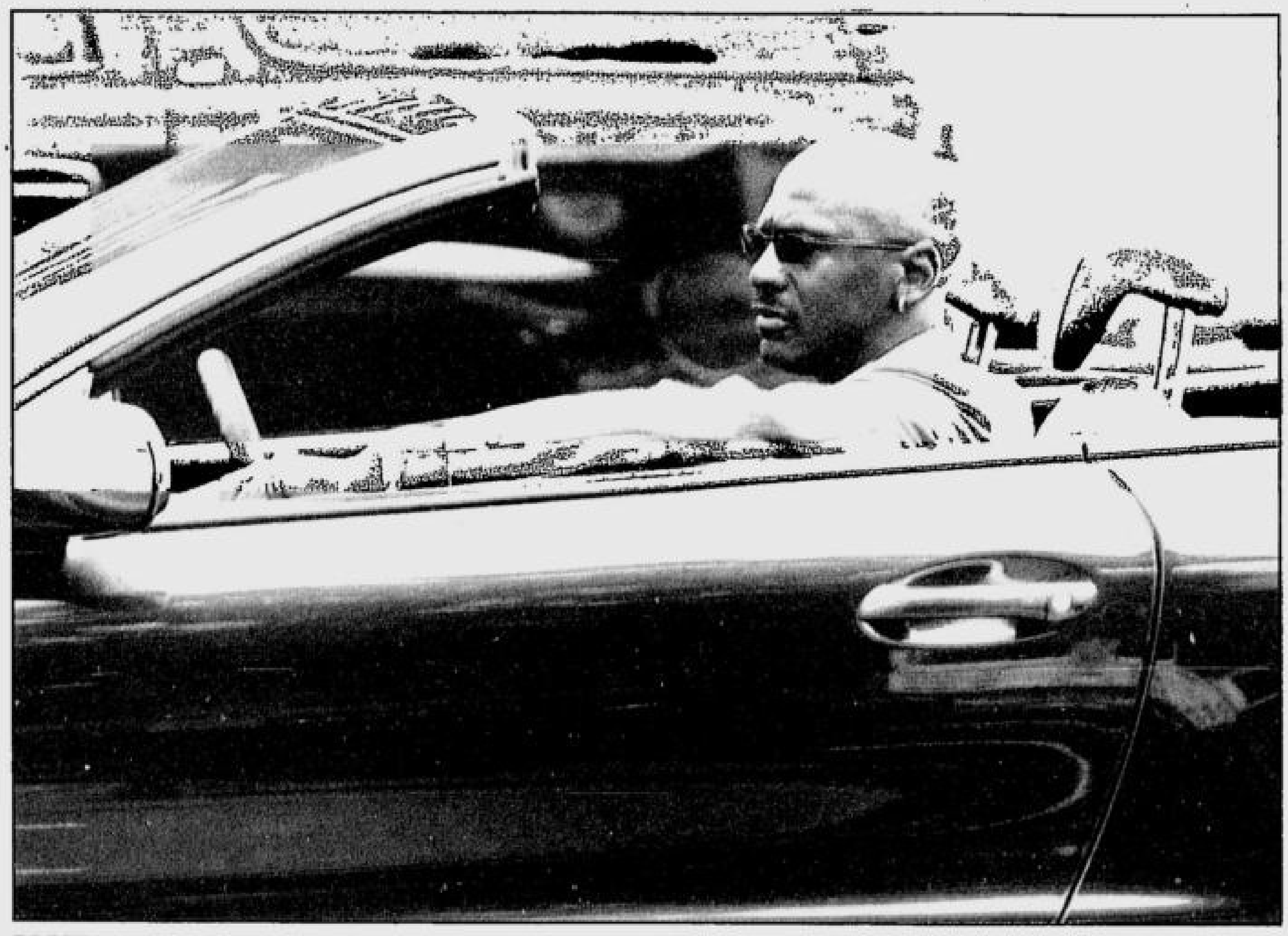
"He has studied the game like few other players," Gund said. "He learned his opponents' weaknesses and how to expose them. Very few people could do it like he could. Yes, he had the athletic ability to be able to capitalize on them, but he had to know what made a complete player complete and what didn't."

Jordan might not have to wait long to get another chance at being an NBA executive.

Robert Johnson, owner of the expansion Charlotte franchise that will start play in 2004, is ready to give him a job.

"We're in the process of building a new organization," Johnson said. "To be able to bring in the greatest basketball player of all time, what more could you ask for? He can run all of the basketball operations if he wants to.

"He can do whatever he wants to do."



DRIVEN OUT of Washington, Michael Jordan leaves the MCI Center after the Wizards dumped him from a front-office role following three and half fruitless seasons on and off the court.
AP

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He scored 26 points in Game 7 against Portland and was the most vociferous Maverick after their discouraging home loss to Sacramento in Game 1.

"Offense was really our best defense," said Dallas' Dirk Nowitzki. "We didn't really keep them from scoring, but we pushed it right back at them.

"That's the tempo we've got to go," added Nowitzki, who said the Mavericks were "sleep walking" in Game 1.

Van Exel scored 13 points in a 30-7 spurt that looked like a clinic in transition basketball. On consecutive possessions, he drilled three 3-pointers in 80 seconds.

The outburst turned a 44-40 lead after one quarter into a blowout.

Steve Nash's layup with 18 seconds to go in the first half gave Dallas an 83-59 lead and broke the record for points in a half shared by the 1983 San Antonio Spurs and 1987 Los Angeles Lakers, both against Denver.

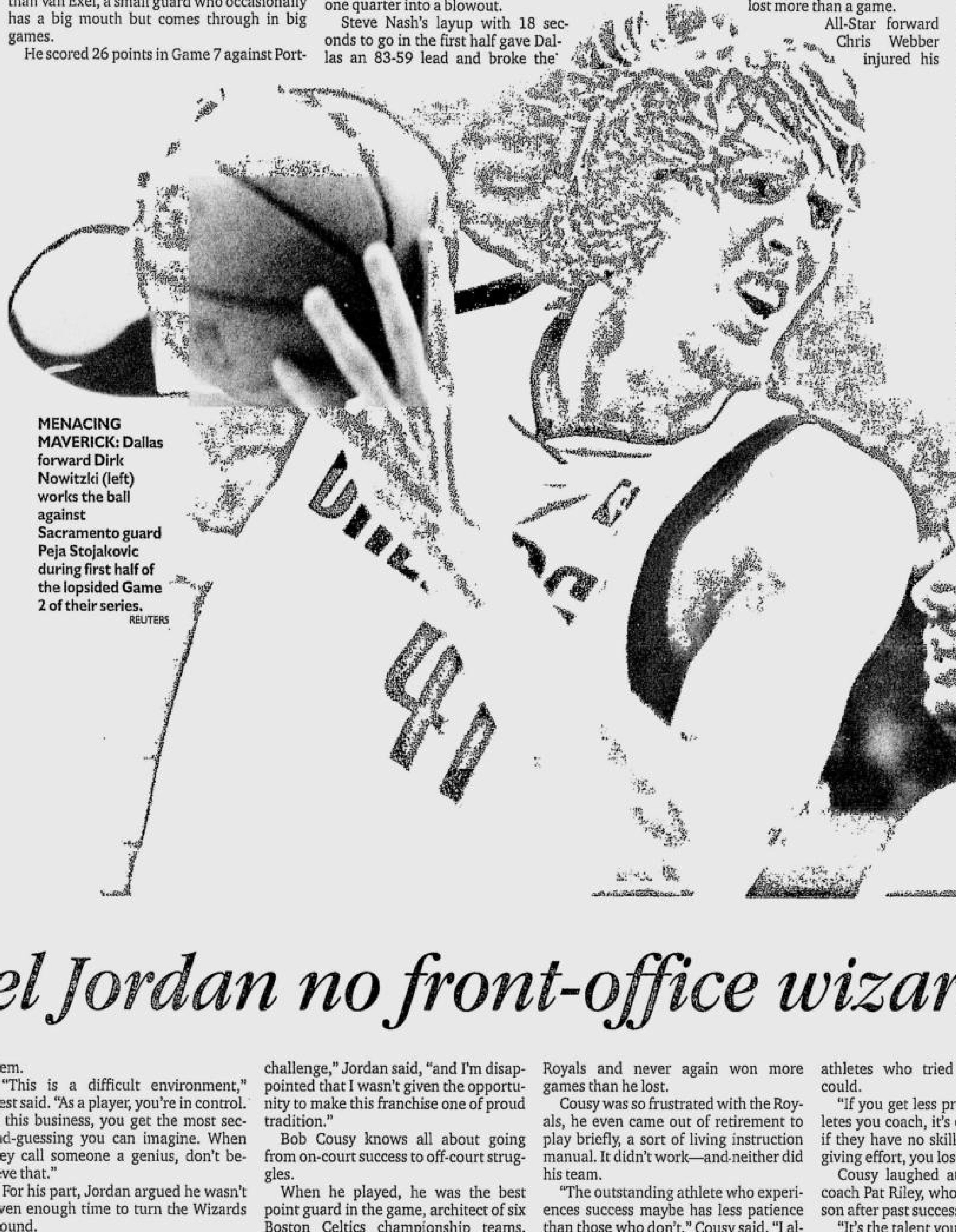
Van Exel made 14-of-19 shots overall and 5-of-8 3-pointers to lead scorching shooting by the Mavs. They shot 51 percent (51-of-99), including 17-of-32 from the arc.

"They took it to us all night long," said Kings coach Rick Adelman. "We had no answers tonight." Nowitzki and Michael Finley scored 24 points apiece and Nash added 19 for third-seeded Dallas, which heads to Sacramento for games three and four on Saturday and Sunday.

The third-seeded Kings may have lost more than a game.

All-Star forward Chris Webber injured his

MAVERICK HERO: Dallas'
Van Exel drives to the bask
against Sacramento's Bobb
Jackson in a play typical of t
Dallas guard's devastating
demolition of the Kings.



MENACING MAVERICK: Dallas forward Dirk Nowitzki (left) works the ball against Sacramento guard Peja Stojakovic during first half of the lopsided Game 2 of their series.

REUTERS

Ainge: No deal with Celtics

New Jersey—Danny Ainge said Thursday he had two one-hour meetings with the new owners of the Boston Celtics but no deal has been completed for him to return to the franchise.

Ainge, who played for the Celtics, was offered the job of head of basketball operations, according to The Boston Globe. The team will make a more formal presentation when Ainge is in Boston on Friday night to serve as a television analyst for Game 3 of the Celtics' playoff series with New Jersey, according to The Boston Herald.

Broadcast reports said he was offered the job of team president.

Chris Wallace is the current general manager and head of basketball operations. Former coach Red Auerbach is the team president.

"While my long-term goals of running a franchise have been well publicized, no deal has been completed and no deal has been signed," Ainge said in a statement issued Thursday by TNT, which will televise Friday's game.

Michael Jordan no front-office wizard

NEW YORK—Even Michael Jordan's most inspired front-office move failed.

He signed the best player available—himself—and it still wasn't enough.

Jordan's front-office washout in Washington was just the latest example of a superstar whose talents on the playing field didn't mean much in the executive suite.

He hired coach Leonard Hamilton, whose team went 19-63. Then he played two seasons, failing to take the Wizards to the playoffs and creating a locker room full of sniping and second-guessing.

There's a big difference between knowing how to dunk and dribble and knowing how to get skilled players who work well together.

Take Larry Bird and Magic Johnson when they were coaches. Bird surrounded himself with Rick Carlisle and Dick Harter as assistants and took the Indiana Pacers to the NBA Finals. A frustrated Johnson walked away from the Los Angeles Lakers after 16 games.

Few people made the transition more seamlessly than Jerry West, a Hall of Fame player who crafted a dynasty as the Los Angeles Lakers' front-office boss.

"It is a difficult transfer of skills," said West, who now runs the Memphis Grizzlies. "If you've been a great player, the natural inclination is that it will be an easy transition. I think there is a lot of correlation between what he did as a player and what he should be able to do in the front office.

"The first thing is understanding the rules, the salary cap and what you can do and can't do. Then you look at a player and ask if he can play a role for us."

And then you hope for the best.

Misjudgments are part of the business. Great players rarely make them. Every administrator eventually makes them.

"This is a difficult environment," West said. "As a player, you're in control. In this business, you get the most second-guessing you can imagine. When they call someone a genius, don't believe that."

For his part, Jordan argued he wasn't given enough time to turn the Wizards around.

"I have never backed down from a challenge," Jordan said, "and I'm disappointed that I wasn't given the opportunity to make this franchise one of proud tradition."

Bob Cousy knows all about going from on-court success to off-court struggles.

When he played, he was the best point guard in the game, architect of six Boston Celtics championship teams. Then he tried coaching the Cincinnati Royals and never again won more games than he lost.

Cousy was so frustrated with the Royals, he even came out of retirement to play briefly, a sort of living instruction manual. It didn't work—and neither did his team.

"The outstanding athlete who experiences success maybe has less patience than those who don't," Cousy said. "I always felt I had plenty of patience with athletes who tried as hard as they could.

"If you get less production from athletes you coach, it's easier to be patient if they have no skill. But if they're not giving effort, you lose patience."

Cousy laughed at criticism of Heat coach Pat Riley, who struggled this season after past successes.

"It's the talent you have or don't have that determines winning or losing," Cousy said. "If you don't have the players, the rest doesn't matter."

Maybe that was what went wrong for Jordan in Washington.

Hall of Famer Bill Walton had a message for him: Stick with it.

"There is no transfer of skills," Walton said. "The only transfer is to maintain the core of human values. The same things that made Michael a great player he has to use to make himself great at whatever else he does. He will succeed. Absolutely."

Cleveland Cavaliers owner Gordon Gund also believes in Jordan's skills.

"He has studied the game like few other players," Gund said. "He learned his opponents' weaknesses and how to expose them. Very few people could do it like he could. Yes, he had the athletic ability to be able to capitalize on them, but he had to know what made a complete player complete and what didn't."

Jordan might not have to wait long to get another chance at being an NBA executive.

Robert Johnson, owner of the expansion Charlotte franchise that will start play in 2004, is ready to give him a job.

"We're in the process of building a new organization," Johnson said. "To be able to bring in the greatest basketball player of all time, what more could you ask for? He can run all of the basketball operations if he wants to.

"He can do whatever he wants to do."

DRIVEN OUT of Washington, Michael Jordan leaves the MCI Center after the Wizards dumped him from a front-office role following three and half fruitless seasons on and off the court.

AP

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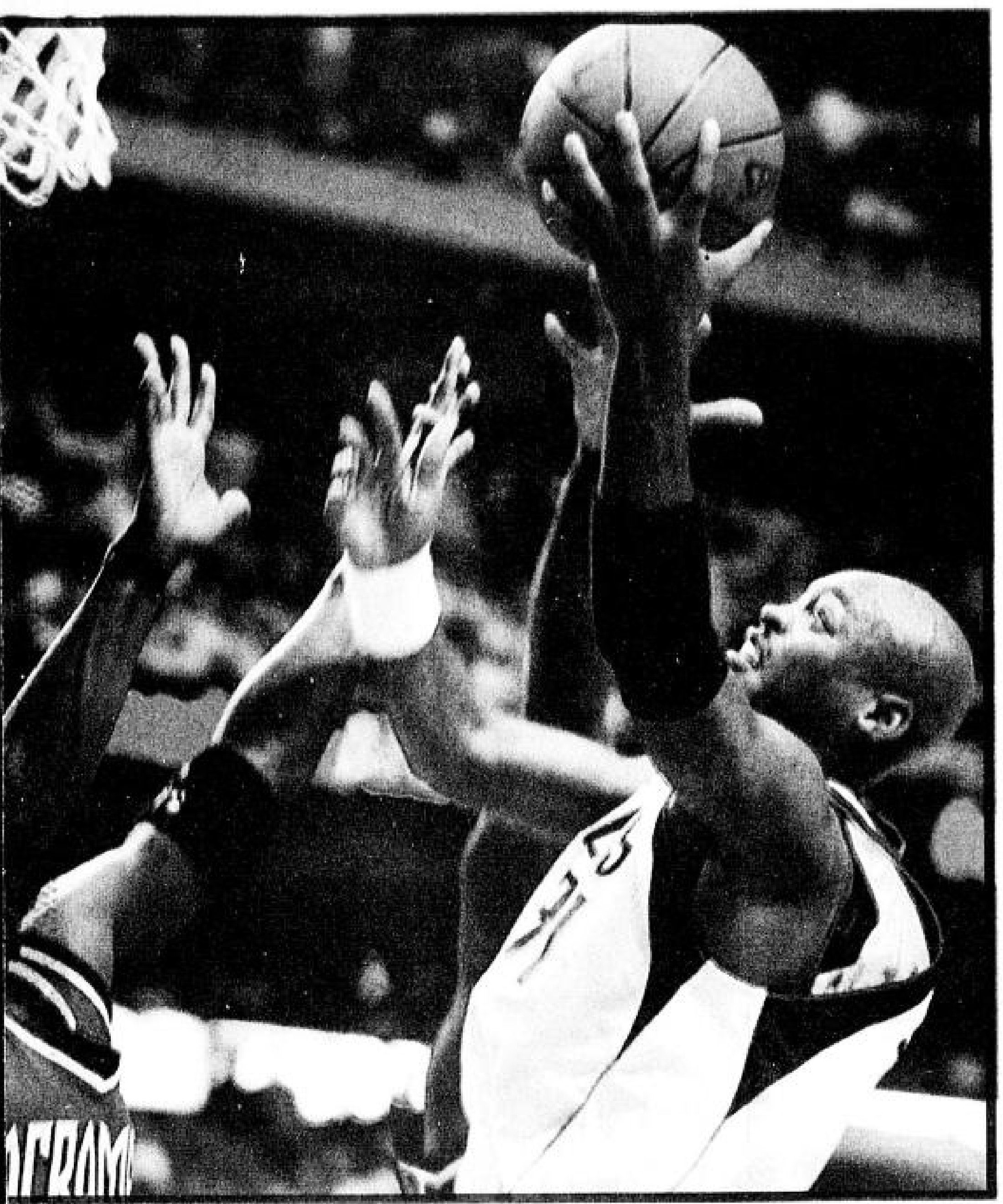

Nick
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AFP

left knee in the third quarter and had to be carted off the court. He returned to the bench and will have an MRI on Friday.

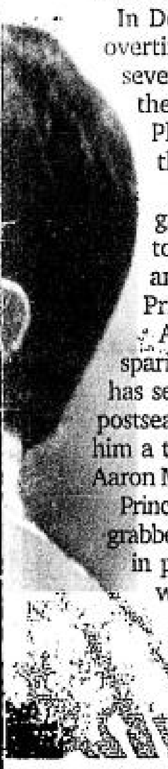
Sixth Man Award winner Bobby Jackson took a shoulder to the right eye in the fourth quarter and also did not return. He underwent X-rays on his cheekbone.

In Detroit, rookie Tayshaun Prince forced overtime with 4.2 seconds left, then scored seven points in the extra session to lift the Pistons to a 104-97 victory over Philadelphia and a 2-0 lead in their Eastern Conference series.

"We knew we needed this game because we didn't want to go back to Philadelphia 1-1 and give them momentum," Prince said.

A first-round pick who played sparingly during the season, Prince has seen increased playing time in the postseason. His 6-foot-9-inch frame makes him a tough matchup for opposing guards, as Aaron McKie and Greg Buckner found out.

Prince had 20 points on 8-of-13 shooting and grabbed nine rebounds. He got a chance to play in place of injured guard Chauncey Billups, who sat out with a sprained ankle. He got a chance to be a hero after Allen Iverson uncharacteristically missed two free throws with 15 seconds left in the fourth quarter, leaving Philadelphia with a 92-90 lead. *AFP*



ROAR OF PISTONS: Detroit's Jon Barry lets out as victorious yell to put an exclamation point to a fourth-quarter basket against the Sixers. AFP

Short-handed Lakers facing tough challenge

EL SEGUNDO, California—Kobe Bryant loves a challenge–always has, always will.

Bryant, Shaquille O'Neal and the rest of the Los Angeles Lakers have overcome every obstacle in their way since Phil Jackson was hired to coach them in 1999.

The three-time defending NBA champions have never had a challenge like this.

Not only do they trail the San Antonio Spurs 2-0 in their second-round playoff series, the Lakers are missing two key players–forwards Rick Fox and Devean George.

"It makes it pretty tough," Bryant acknowledged with a thin smile Thursday.

Their absence was glaring in every way in San Antonio's 114-95 victory in Game 2 on Wednesday.

And it's decimated a bench that was already thin.

"Yeah, it is (tough)," said 37-year-old Brian Shaw, who started Wednesday night for the first time since April 8, 2001. "If it wasn't tough, it wouldn't be as satisfying if we get over the hump."

Fox tore a tendon in his left foot in the Lakers' first-round series against Minnesota and will undergo surgery next week.

That made a starter out of George, but he sprained his left ankle in San Antonio's series-opening 87-82 victory Monday night.

An MRI on Thursday confirmed George had what team spokesman John Black called a severe sprain and nothing more. Jackson said it's a virtual certainty George won't play Friday night in Game 3 at Staples Center.

The Spurs called off practice Thursday, opting to rest before flying to Los Angeles for Games 3 and 4.

"We're looking all right now. I like our position," Spurs star Tim Duncan said. "They are the world champions. I don't think they respect us. I don't think they're worried at all. That's nothing, to be up 2-0. We need to show that we can win on the road now."

The Spurs won 18 of their last 20 road games in the regular season to finish 27-14.

Seven NBA teams have rallied from a 2-0 deficit to win a best-of-seven series, with the Houston Rockets being the most recent to accomplish the feat, doing so in the 1995 Western Conference finals against Phoenix.

"We view this as an opportunity," Bryant said. "They did what they had to do (winning twice at home). The pressure's on us to do what we have to do. It's on us to do the same."

That means win Friday night and Sunday afternoon to even the series.

But first things first.

"Going down 3-0 in terms of percentages is not favorable for us," Derek Fisher said when asked if the Lakers were in a desperate situation.

No NBA team has ever come back from a 3-0 deficit.

"It's new territory for us, it's what it is," Fisher said. "We'll just go from there. We have to do what's necessary. We feel like there's so much room for improvement."

There's no question about that considering the Spurs dominated the Lakers in every way possible Wednesday night.

"Champions have a way of coming up with their best effort when it seems like they can't," Fisher said.

Fisher took only four shots in Game 2. Robert Horry, a playoff hero in the past, continued his horrendous slump, shooting 1-of-5.

SPORTS noodle

By Bong Barrameda

Who's first?

A serving of 7 questions, from easiest to toughest, each with a corresponding point value. Can you score a perfect 100 (or, at least, beat the other 'sports genius/geniuses' beside you)?

1) 3 points
☐True / ☐False: Robert Jaworski was the PBA's first Most Valuable Player in 1975.

2) 5 points
What was the first grand slam tournament won by Tiger Woods in 1997: ☐US Open / ☐Masters?

3) 7 points
Who was the first man to beat Muhammad Ali, this on a 15-round unanimous decision in 1971?
☐Joe Frazier
☐Ken Norton
☐Leon Spinks

4) 10 points
In what Asian capital did Paeng Nepomuceno win his first bowling World Cup in 1976?
☐Jakarta, Indonesia
☐Teheran, Iran
☐Bangkok, Thailand

5) 15 points
Name the first Filipina to earn the title 'Asia's Fastest Woman.'
☐Mona Sulaiman
☐Francisca Sanopal
☐Inocencia Solis
☐Lydia de Vega

6) 25 points
Michael Schumacher drove for what team when he became World Formula One champion for the first time in 1994?
☐Benetton-Ford
☐McLaren-Mercedes
☐Williams-Renault
☐Brabham-BMW

7) 30 points
When Efren "Bata" Reyes first prowled the rich pool grounds of the United States in 1985, he decided to use an alias to hide his true identity. What was this alias?

ANSWERS/ A27

Yao Ming hosts anti-SARS telethon

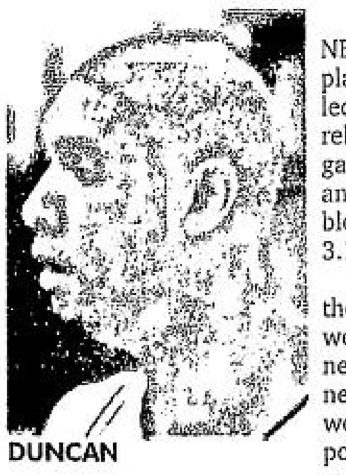
NEW Jersey—National Basketball Association sensation Yao Ming of China will host a multi-national telethon to raise funds to battle SARS, the NBA announced Thursday.

The three-hour telethon, co-organized by NBA TV and the Shanghai TV Great Sports Channel, is scheduled to air live in the United States on Sunday, May 11, from 5-8am (1200-1500 gmt).

"The fight against SARS is an extremely important one, and I wanted to do something to support the fight and help overcome the disease," Yao said. "This is the least I can do to help my country get through this difficult time." Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, a viral illness believed to have originated in China, has now claimed more than 500 lives and infected more than 7,000 people in some 30 countries.

During the show, viewers in the United States made donations to the American Red Cross to help in the fight against SARS, and other NBA stars, including league Most Valuable Player Tim Duncan and Yao's Houston Rockets teammate Steve Francis, have pleged their support. *AFP*

Duncan makes defensive team



DUNCAN

NEW York—Two-time MVP Tim Duncan of the San Antonio Spurs was named to the NBA all-defensive team for the fifth straight year on Thursday.

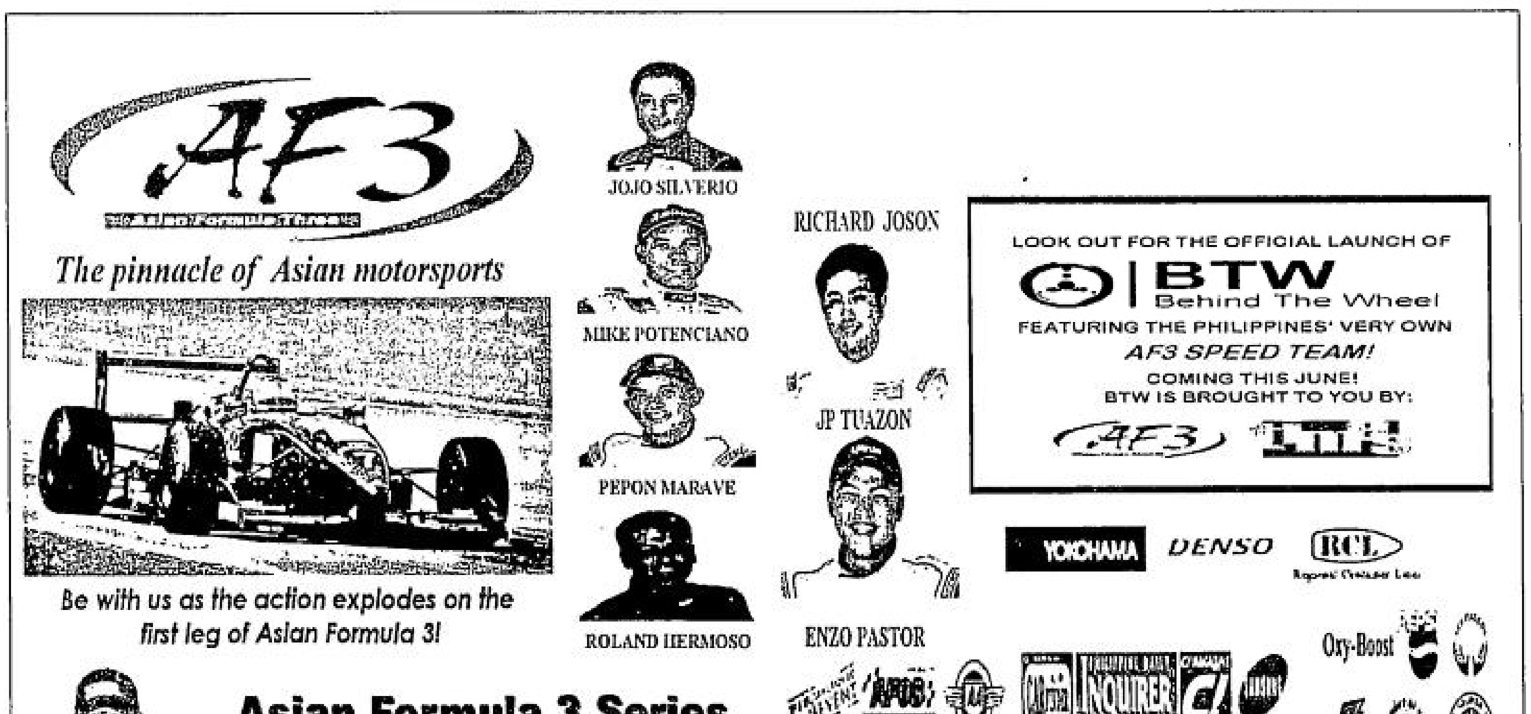
Duncan, who led the Spurs to the top seeding in the western conference playoffs, received 44 points to place third in the voting. The 27-year-old was third in both rebounds (12.9) and blocked shots (2.93) to earn a spot on the team.

Topping the poll was Ben Wallace, who helped the Detroit Pistons to the top seeding in the eastern conference playoffs and received 27 first-place votes and 55 total points.

The two-time NBA defensive player of the year led the league in rebounds per game with 15.4 and was second in blocked shots with 3.14.

Also named to the first team were Kevin Garnett of the Minnesota Timberwolves (47 points), Sacramento Kings' Doug Christie (38) and Kobe Bryant of the Los Angeles Lakers (35).

On the second team were Ron Artest of Indianapolis, Bruce Bowen of San Antonio, Shaquille O'Neal of Los Angeles, Jason Kidd of New Jersey and Eric Snow of Philadelphia.



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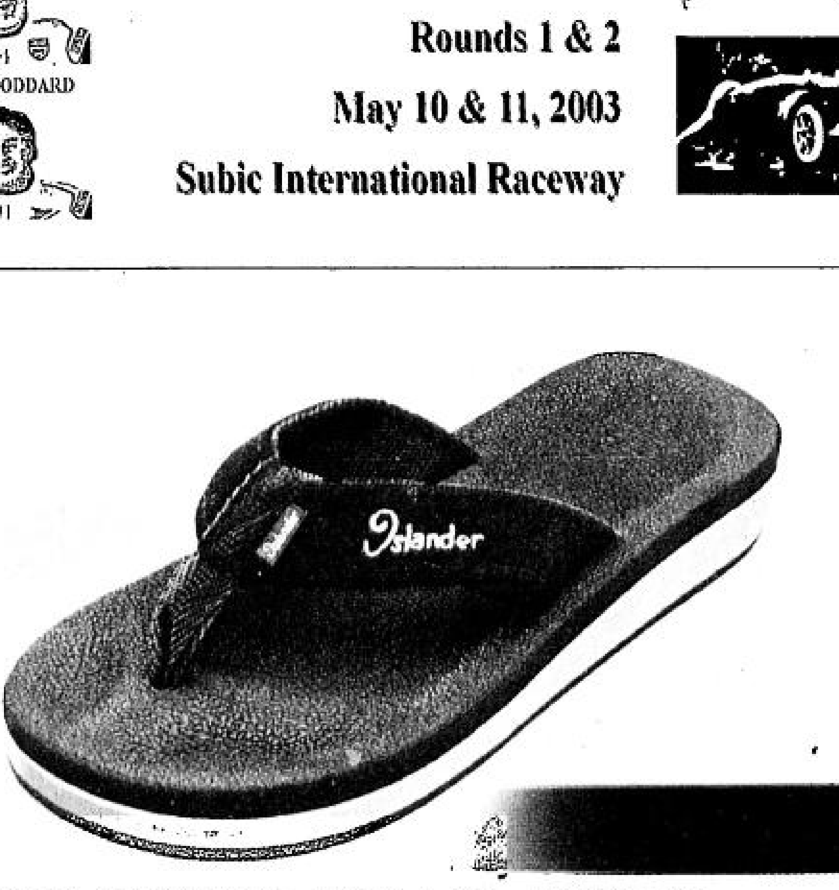

Malayo ang mararating.
Islander
Kapal ng orig, tibay ng orig!

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WACHOVIA CHAMPIONSHIP

Smashing start for Price, Couples

NICK PRICE: They can make the course as hard as they want to. REUTERS

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina—Fred Couples and Nick Price helped get the Wachovia Championship off to a smashing start Thursday, each posting a 6-under 66 on a Quail Hollow course that left most players wondering if the U.S. Open had moved to May.

"I wouldn't be surprised if in the future there would be either a US Open or a PGA on this golf course, because they can make it as hard as they want to," Price said.

It wasn't a brute, not with rain soaking the course for three days leading up to the opening round. Still, Couples was looking ahead to what the next three days might hold.

"You can see what's going to happen," he said. "It's going to firm up, and all this 66 stuff is going to go away."

Couples and Price took advantage while they could, getting around with a different style of game that gave them a one-stroke lead over PGA champion Rich Beem.

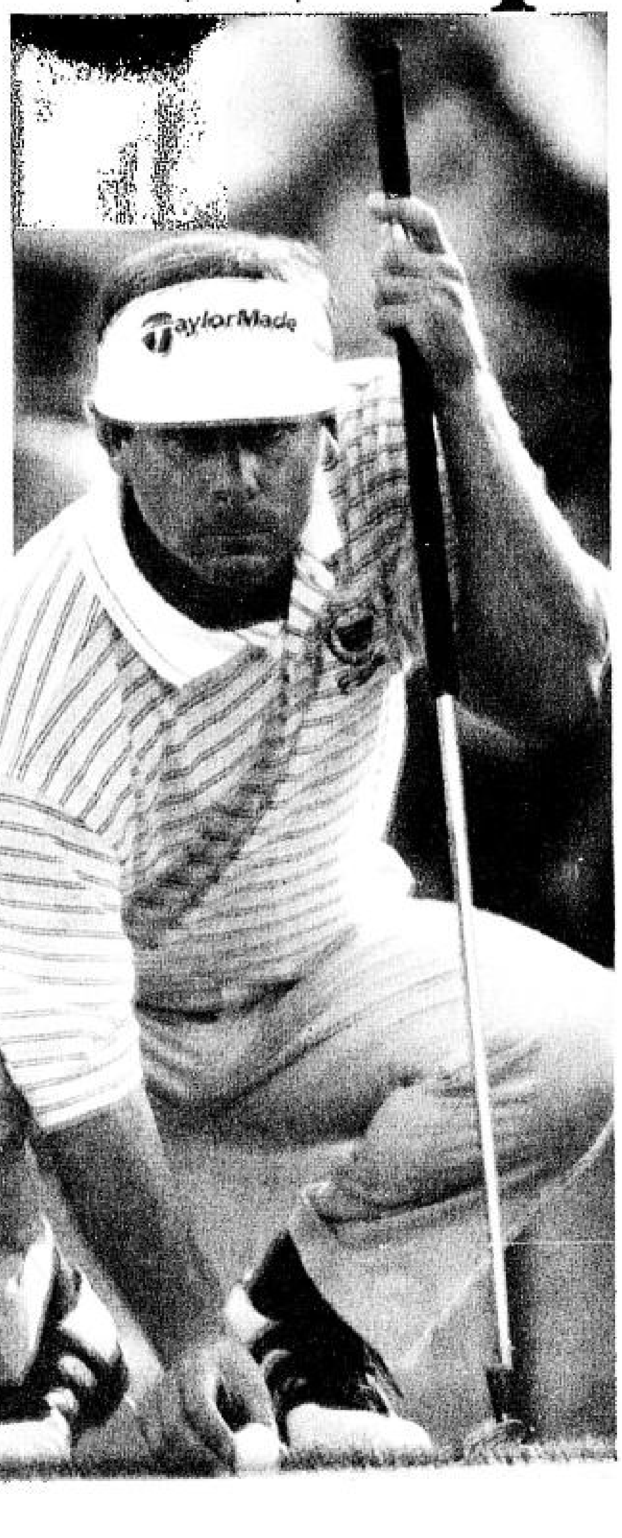
In his first start since winning the Houston Open to end a five-year drought, Couples played bogey-free at Quail Hollow and holed two long birdie putts to be in the lead for the fourth straight round on tour.

"I'm riding this wave and playing well," he said.

Price is on a high of his own. Two days ago, he was introduced as the latest member of the World Golf Hall of Fame, and he cautioned tour officials not to etch in stone his 18 victories on the PGA Tour. He might have at least another one left in him.

Price birdied four of his last seven holes, saving par with an 8-foot putt on No. 9.

It was a prime example why he's not bothered by a course that measures 7,396 yards.



FRED COUPLES: Riding on a wave REUTERS

Stewart's 1,000th hit lifts Jays past Rangers

ARLINGTON, Texas—Shannon Stewart hit a three-run homer for his 1,000th career hit as the Toronto Blue Jays overcame Rafael Palmeiro's 499th home run to beat the Texas Rangers 8-6.

Palmeiro led off the eighth with his ninth homer this season. On the verge of becoming the 19th player to reach 500, he ended Thursday's game when he struck out in the ninth with one on and two outs against Cliff Politte, who got his second save.

Greg Myers had three hits and three RBIs for the Blue Jays.

Cory Lidle (5-2) allowed four runs and eight hits in six-plus innings. Ryan Drese (2-2) gave up five runs–four earned–and five hits in 4 2-3 innings.

Athletics 8, White Sox 5.

In Oakland, California, Miguel Tejada had three hits, including a three-run homer. Eric Chavez also homered, and Ramon Hernandez and Erubiel Durazo had RBI doubles.

John Halama (2-2) allowed two runs and seven hits in 6 1-3 innings to win for the first time since April 5, and Keith Foulke got four outs for his ninth save. Jon Garland (2-3) gave up five runs and eight hits in five innings. *AP*

Clock starts for Indy hopefuls

INDIANAPOLIS—One race has already begun at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

With less than 48 hours until qualifying, drivers were still looking for rides and teams were still debating which cars to use in the Indianapolis 500.

The official entry sheet lists just 30 driver-car combinations. That includes Japan's Shigeaki Hattori, who might not race May 25 after crashing Tuesday, and countryman Shinji Nakano, who signed a deal Thursday with, Beck Motorsports.

There is no shortage of drivers or cars for the field of 33, but putting together combinations has proven elusive.

"I'm not here on vacation," said Italian Max Papis, one of those in search of a ride.

Rookie Dan Wheldon has one, and he went 373.613 kph (232.202 mph) in practice Thursday, posting the fastest lap of the week.

Englishman Wheldon had the fastest speed for the second time in three days and is on a team that has no room for additional drivers. Andretti Green Racing already has four.

Clock starts

But the clock already has started for many of those in waiting–including Papis.

He finished 18th last year in his first Indy 500, driving as a teammate to 1998 winner Eddie Cheever Jr.

When Thursday's practice began, though, Papis sat on the back of a golf cart. He had plenty of company.

Others scouring the garage area for employment included Alex Barron, Memo Gidley, Eliseo Salazar, Jeret Schroeder and Richie Hearn. All but Gidley are Indy veterans.

Decisions could be coming as soon as this weekend.

"I think once teams have their (regular) drivers safely in the field, you'll see them start to work on it," team owner Tom Kelley said. "You could see it Sunday because you don't want to wait till the last minute."

Most of the 24 remaining unemployed drivers who have passed physicals are veterans, but new drivers will have less time to test –and qualify.

There are plenty of cars, however.

Roger Penske has won a record 12 Indy 500s as an owner and has eight cars at the track but just two drivers. No decision has been made on whether to add anyone after two-time defending champion Helio Castroneves and Gil de Ferran are safely in the field.

Chip Ganassi's team has four cars at the track and put four in the field in 2001. He also is waiting to see what happens this weekend. *AP*

Rosie Jones leads; Jenny is injured

NORTH AUGUSTA, South Carolina—Rosie Jones shot a 6-under 66, heading an Asahi Ryokuken International leaderboard full of U.S. players trying to break their country's nine-month winning drought on the LPGA Tour.

Jones was tied for the first-round lead Thursday with Sophie Gustafson of Sweden.

The last time an American walked off with a tour trophy was Meg Mallon at the Canadian Women's Open last Aug. 18, a stretch of 17 events, the longest in LPGA history.

So where are the Americans? At Mount Vintage Plantation Golf Club, all you had to do was look out front.

Pat Hurst was third with a 67. Laura Diaz and Wendy Ward were tied with young Mexican star Lorena Ochoa and Italy's Giulia Sergas at 68.

Dorothy Delasin, Beth Bader, Moira Dunn and qualifier Nicole Daikas–playing her first event of the year–were in a group another stroke behind.

Jennifer Rosales, the only Filipina in the LPGA tour, failed to start after suffering a wrist injury in practice. She opted to rest for her next event two weeks from now.

Just getting ready

In all, 17 of the top 26 players in the opening round were Americans.

"I haven't been winding down," said Jones, 43. "I'm just getting ready."

Se Ri Pak and Grace Park, two Korean stars second and third on the LPGA money list, were tied at 73. Money leader Annika Sorenstam is playing in Japan this week before taking on the guys at the PGA Tour's Colonial tournament May 22-25.

Diaz, a native of upstate New York with two victories last year, shook her head when asked about the streak.

"I don't see it as being an issue in any other sport: our tennis players, our hockey players, our baseball players," Diaz said. "I think that we're very strong as a country out here."

Still, she knows it won't go away for good until an American wins.

"We're all playing the best golf that we can," Diaz said. "It's just a matter of time before an American takes home the trophy."

For the longest while, that leader looked to be Hurst. She had five straight birdies at one point and was 7 under playing her final hole, the par-5 ninth. But a downhill 12-footer for birdie slid by the right side of the cup and rolled about 30 feet past, with Hurst shouting "Stop" a couple of times.

Hurst's par putt was 5 feet short, then she missed that one to take a double-bogey 7 and give up the lead.

Hurst said she didn't want to comment on the difficult pin position.

"If you were standing out there, we don't have to talk about it because you could see how bad it was," she said.

Jones, who's won 12 times on tour but not since 2001, tied her lowest score of the year with a round that included an eagle, seven birdies and three bogeys. *AP*

GOLFER'S WOES

Aris Lara of Magallanes complains of a lousy course as he searches for his ball with his caddy, who tells him they've left the course 20 minutes ago during the opening round of the Nokia Intervillage golf tournament at the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club recently. The Nokia tournament resumes Monday at the Riviera.

GOLF DUEL

La Salle completes three-peat vs. Ateneo

By Jong Arcano

LA Salle didn't have to worry about an Enrico Villanueva or their own Mike Cortez this time.

When the fabled rivalry shifted from basketball to golf, La Salle's cavalry got a big treat from their ladies who practically didn't have any competition at all as the Archers swept past the Ateneo Blue Eagles, 120-95, in their annual dual meet to complete a three-year romp and earn permanent possession of the Ambassador Valdes Cup.

Sparked by Lora Roberto's low-gross 73, La Salle won all 14 points disputed in the ladies division which proved the turning point in the three-day showdown that ended Thursday.

Ably backing up Roberto were Anya Tanpinco, Stephanie Yu and national ladies champion Heidi Chua.

La Salle outpointed its rival in five of the seven divisions, including a 17-6 blowout in the seniors division played for the first time at Manila Golf where Sitong Mesina took the low gross plum with a two-under 70 and Alex Montelibano (60-64 yrs) and Alex Prieto (65-above) topped their respective brackets.

La Salle, which finally pulled off the three-peat after two close misses, produced five low gross champions and 14 division winners in various age-groups while Ateneo went home with two low gross trophies and six division titles.

The format awarded five points to a low gross winner, five to a net winner using the Modified Blind Callaway system, three to the runner-up and one to the third placer.

Aside from the ladies sweep and the seniors romp, La Salle also ruled the 20-29 years (24-17), 30-39 (22-19) and 40-49 class (23-18) at the north and south courses of Canlubang.

Ateneo, on the other hand, could only win the 19-below age-group (13-1) behind Anthony Fernando and Gabriel Atienza and the 50-59 (22-19) despite the gross 70s of La Salle frontliners Bong de Guzman, Francis Gaston and Tommy Manotoc.

Among the low gross winners were Ateneo's Jun Jun Plana with a 69 in the 30-39 years, and La Salle's Abe Rosal (40-49) and Raymund Sangil (20-29) also with their 69s.

This year's duel attracted 551 alumni and students as well as affiliates of both schools.

Ferdie Atendido and Henry Atayda were the co-chair for La Salle while Jinggy Tuason was chair for Ateneo.

The planned Ryder Cup version that should have spiced up the dual meet had to be shelved due to lack of preparations. Organizers are still hoping to hold the event late this year with Camp John Hay in Baguio already committing to host it.

With the Ambassador Valdes Cup now in La Salle's hand, organizers will ask his family if they are still willing to donate a second trophy for next year's meet.

Saving your money, your life

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

GYMS have sprouted like mushrooms lately.

By gym, I mean places where you can exercise by doing the treadmill or something, lifting weights or stretching those muscles through expensive gadgets imported from America.

Although some of them charge exorbitant fees, still our folks and youngsters alike have started trooping to these places. It's become almost the in-thing to be seen in a gym these days.

That's a good sign. Suddenly, people have become conscious of their health.

Or is it their bodies they are suddenly conscious about?

There's a whale of a difference between body and health.

Do we really need the gym to keep us healthy?

Or do we need to go to the gym to keep our body beautiful?

Not really is my answer to both.

Don't get me wrong. I am not against gyms, or even going to the gym. I go to the gym myself. Not very often but frequent enough to make me know the latest twist and turn on the bench-press, or how many pounds one needs to lift when one is a beginner.

It's not in the lifting or bending, it's really in the knowing and absorbing. You need to know the facts and digest them well like food chewed properly before it is swallowed.

It's not in the gym visit, it's in the ref visit. You visit the gym more often than the ref, it could lead to an unhealthy diet. You visit the ref more often than the gym, it could even be more disastrous than you think.

Balance. That's the trick.

You don't eat more than you could chew. Eat in moderation. You don't drink more than you could gulp. Drink in moderation.

The sad truth is, many of us go to the gym more out of the need to keep our bodies beautiful than to make us healthy. I know a lot of people who do gym workouts to keep their bodies beautiful. Always, it's the physical aspect of it, never the health benefits we derive from the exercises that we do. Thus nowadays, we see exercise buffs instead of health buffs.

How to differentiate the two?

The exercise buffs often eat less and exercise more.

The health buffs often eat more and exercise regularly.

You eat less and, of course, that will make your body beautiful, especially if you augment that with rigorous workouts in the gym. Surely, you will get a lean, no-fat look a la Paltrow.

But does that make you healthy? I mean, is body beautiful a passport to a healthy body?

Of course, we can have the shape of Jennifer Lopez, or even Stallone or Schwarzenegger, with regular visits to the gym. Exercises coupled with lifting weights can really do wonders to our bodies.

However, if we are not eating the right food while we are into strenuous exercises, it can lead to a beautiful body on the outside but a rotten body on the inside.

The truth that should make us happy is, you don't have to go to a gym to be both healthy and good looking. Of course, it'd be nice visiting the gym once in a while. For a change, you know. But any place on earth is as good a place to exercise.

Doctors of both sports medicine and general medicine, and even the real experts on health and body beautiful, are one in saying that walking is still the best exercise.

According to health doctors, the 30-minute walk, the brisk one, remains the best seller. They say this is aimed at reducing the risk of chronic disease in the future.

According to them as reported recently by Newsweek, the 60 minutes is paired with dietary recommendations and focuses on weight control. Basically, it is what you eat, or the amount of dietary supplements, that determines the length of exercise you need. Researchers found out that 60 minutes of physical activity is necessary to maintain body weight and avoid excess gain.

Said Steven Blair of the Cooper Institute in Dallas, Texas: "Being active is good for you whether you're young or old, man or woman, tall or short, skinny or fat."

The trick really is, don't focus on weight loss although reducing your dietary intake will help a lot more in that department.

Thinking about your health is the key. Your health will improve when you exercise no matter how much you weigh and whether or not you lose any pound. If you are a first timer, walk for a few minutes a day until you work up to 30 or more. You can even break that 30-minute brisk walk in 10-minute sets. It's easy. In three sessions of 10 minutes each, completing that 30-minute regimen in one day is a piece of a cake.

If it rains, there's always that umbrella or raincoat to lean on. Remember the saying, "Movement is life and rest is death." Surely, it will set you free from the bondage of gym life.

SPORTS noodle

Answers from page A24

1. False (William 'Bogs' Adornado was first)
2. Masters
3. Joe Frazier
4. Teheran, Iran
5. Inocencia Solis (at the 1958 Tokyo Asian Games)
6. Benetton-Ford
7. Cesar Morales

ITALIAN OPEN TENNIS

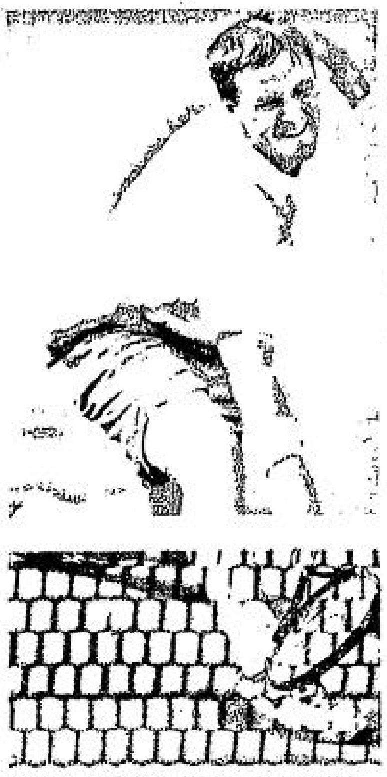
'Spanish Armada' loses a ship

ROME—The "Spanish Armada" lost one of its flagship names at the $2.75-million Italian Open as third-seeded Carlos Moya fell to Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia 6-4, 7-6 (4) in the third round.

Kafelnikov, a former world No. 1, only recently recovered from a blood circulation problem in his leg that had left him contemplating retirement at the end of a disappointing 2002 season.

"It's been a long time since I've felt so excited, at last I can feel that way again," the Russian said Thursday.

Kafelnikov and Moya traded four breaks of serve in the second set before the Russian hit a backhand winner on match point in the tiebreaker.



KAFELNIKOV: Sinking a flagship

His victory earned him a debut spot in the quarterfinals of this key clay-court tuneup for Roland Garros. He will play Martin Verkerk of the Netherlands on Friday.

Tournament-favorite Roger Federer of Switzerland also advanced to the quarterfinals, sinking Tommy Robredo of Spain 6-1, 6-1.

Federer got off to a blistering start, taking the first set in just 19 minutes with his usual arsenal of serve-and-volleying, wily baseline play and effective returns.

The 19th-ranked Robredo did not play poorly—making just as many unforced errors (13) as his opponent—but Federer seemed to be making just about any shot he wanted to.

Still, there's one shot the Swiss would like to improve.

"I'd like to have this forehand dropshot all these Spaniards have. They have all this time, they wait and wait and at the end they play a dropshot," he said, referring to the typically long baseline exchanges that are a trademark of Spanish play.

In Thursday's evening match, second-seeded Juan Carlos Ferrero, who possesses such a shot, rallied to defeat fellow clay-court specialist Gaston Gaudio of Argentina 5-7, 6-0, 6-2.

After breaking early in the final set, Ferrero finally overcame Gaudio's almost three hour-long defiance on his fourth match point.

Although the Spaniard appeared slightly fatigued from his recent victories in Monte Carlo and Valencia, Ferrero is still considered a favorite for the Rome event.

In the other evening match, seventh-seeded Albert Costa lost to fellow Spaniard Felix Mantilla 7-5, 4-6, 6-1.

As most top players struggled or foundered in the heat and humidity of an unusually early summer in Rome, many new faces and unheralded players found a place in the sun at the Foro Italico.

Among them was Filippo Volandri, who beat Radek Stepanek of the Czech Republic 6-3, 6-4 to become the first Italian to reach the quarterfinals in Rome since 1996. No Italian has won this event since Adriano Panatta in 1976.

Cheered on by an enthusiastic crowd, Volandri recovered from an early break in both sets and showed off a solid forehand and backhand. *AP*

DOKIC: Family feud. AFP

Pa disowns Dokic

SYDNEY—The father of tennis player Jelena Dokic says he never wants to see his daughter again after their recent break-up, according to a report in Friday's Sydney Morning Herald.

The newspaper quotes Damir Dokic of accusing his daughter of abandoning her family for Brazilian Formula One racing driver Enrique Bernoldi.

"I never want to see (Jelena) again," Damir said. "She left us." Damir's comments came just a day after Jelena told reporters at the German Open that she was struggling to adapt to life without the influence of her father. She lost in Berlin to Uzbekistan's Iroda Tulyaganova.

Jelena, ranked 11 in the world, reportedly banned her father from attending her matches after a row over her relationship with Bernoldi. The 20-year-old also dumped her father as coach for Swiss Heinz Gunthardt.

The family feud is just the latest brush with controversy for the Dokic family.

Damir has been expelled from both the Wimbledon and US Open tournaments and once accused Australian Open officials of rigging the draw to ruin his daughter's chances of winning. *Reuters*

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Hong Kong reports 14 more SARS deaths
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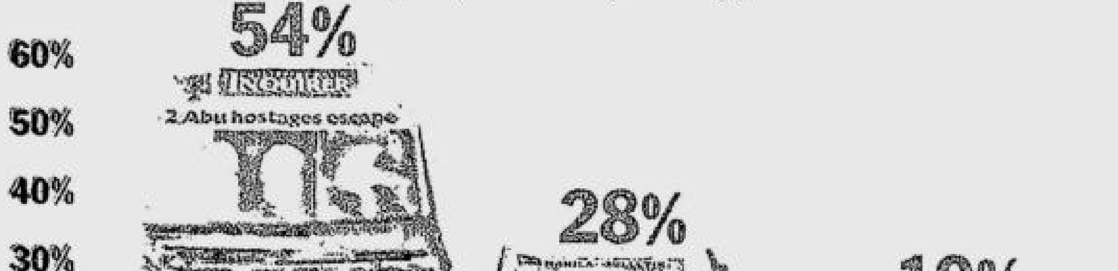

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The lady deserves a break!
JOEY Salutes Mom! 92.3
A celebration meant for Mothers at
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AT ROCKWELL
May 11, 2003 Sunday

Robust exports push RP surplus to $4.197B

By Clarissa S. Batino

STRONG exports last year pushed the country's current account surplus to an unexpected $4.197 billion, up from $1.32 billion in 2001 even after adjustments in the trade data, according to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

Trade data adjustments in years 2000 and 2001 led to lower-than-previously announced current account surpluses.

However, capital flight last year reached $5.023 billion, up 54.1 percent from $3.26 billion the previous year as foreign investors withdrew their dollar deposits in local banks while Filipinos increased their investments abroad.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura yesterday said the current account would remain at a healthy surplus of $2.4 billion this year despite uncertainties that might lead to a slower growth in exports.

The modest target, according to the BSP chief, considered lingering concerns like the impact of the outbreak of SARS and the slowdown of the US economy, which remained the Philippines' biggest market.

A closely watched indicator reflecting movement in the country's trade, the current account, under the BSP's worst-case scenario, was forecast at a deficit of $10 million based on a protracted US-Iraq war.

The current account covers trade in goods and services, net rent, interest, profits and dividends. It also includes transfers such as overseas workers' remittances.

"Armchair economists projected that we would have a current account deficit last year but our data showed this was not the case. We hope these numbers finally put to rest uncertainties on the country's trade data," the BSP chief said.

Buenaventura pointed to a 10.1-percent growth in exports in 2002 for the huge surplus in the current account compared to a 16-percent contraction in exports in 2001 that pushed the external payments surplus down.

This year, the country's balance of payments should register a surplus of about $200 million against a surplus of $660 million in 2002. Gross international reserves should stay within $14 billion-$15 billion.

The BOP indicates the country's ability to settle its obligations and is influenced by the current account and the capital and financial account that mirrors the flow of investment and borrowings.

A BSP official said the current account and BOP estimates this year might be revised positively as influential factors to external payments like the price of crude oil had gone down and was seen to continue dropping.

BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. yesterday said the external payments position in April might revert to a surplus from a deficit of $557 million in March.

Tetangco said that as investments and borrowings increase in the coming months, the external payments position would also improve.

East Asia to lose $28 billion if SARS lingers—ADB

EAST Asia could lose nearly $28 billion in income and output if the region fails to control SARS by September, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) warned yesterday.

The Manila-based bank said aggregate 2003 gross domestic product (GDP) growth in China, Hong Kong, South Korea and Taiwan could be cut to 4.7 percent while growth in Southeast Asia would drop to 2.5 percent if the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) epidemic continued between July and September.

Among the worst hit under such a scenario would be Hong Kong with GDP expected to contract 1.4 percent, the ADB said, compared with its original forecast of 2-percent growth for the territory.

Before SARS struck the region, the bank had forecast GDP growth in China and the other Northeast Asian economies to be around 5.6 percent and Southeast Asia at 4 percent.

"The reduction in GDP growth will translate into huge losses in income and output," ADB chief economist Ifzal Ali warned.

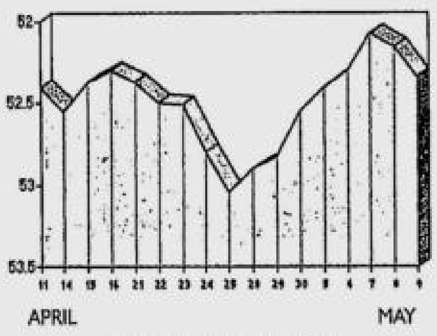
China, Hong Kong, South Korea and Taiwan would chalk up losses totaling $20 billion if SARS ravaged their economies up to September, the ADB said.

Hong Kong together with China are the worst affected by SARS, accounting for the bulk of the more than 500 deaths worldwide while Taiwan has seen a sharp increase in the number of cases recently.

Losses in Southeast Asia would amount to $7.7 billion if the killer respiratory disease extends into the third quarter, the ADB said. *AFP*

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱52.34 = $1

As of 5 p.m., May 9, 2003

¥117.32 = $1

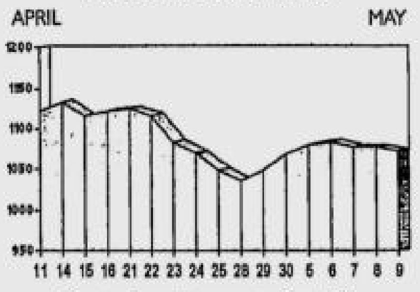
As of 5 p.m., May 9, 2003

GOLD: **$348.20-348.70**

per ounce Hong Kong, May 9, 2003

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



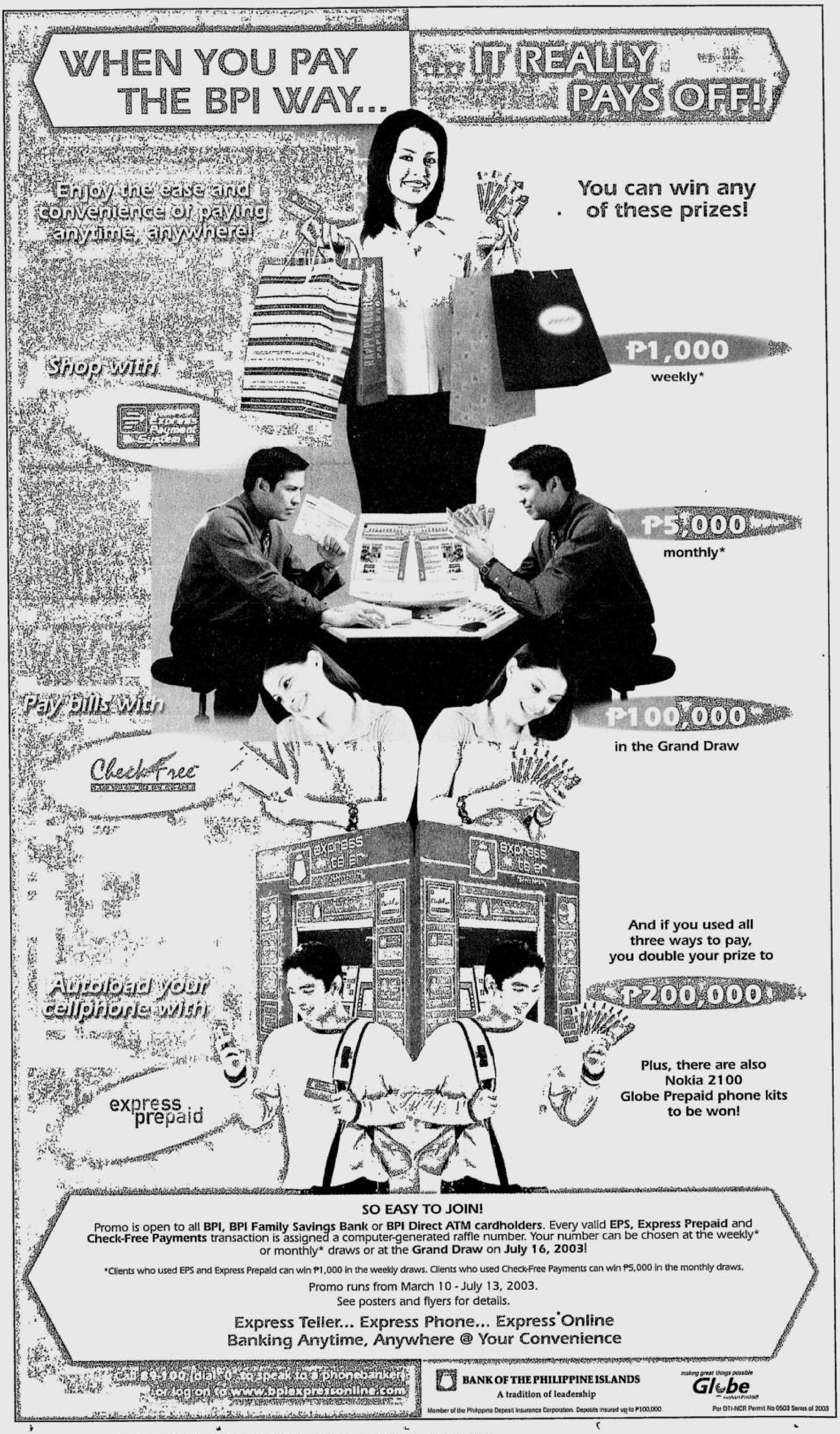
(See stock market report on Page B2)

Stocks end down

SHARES wiped out early gains to close a shade lower yesterday as investors waited for more positive first-quarter corporate earnings results to shake off the market's current consolidation mode.

Analysts said there was no fundamental macroeconomic reason for the market to slide, especially with indications of an improved tax revenue picture, steady peso and lower inflation.

The Philippine stock index lost 5.06 points or 0.47 percent to end at 1,073.26 points. The market has been stuck in a tight range of 1,067 to 1,085 points this week, and was hardly changed week on week with a gain of just about 0.5 percent. *Reuters*



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FIRST QUARTER

Ayala Corp. posts ₱656-M profit

By Doris C. Dumlao

AYALA Corp. posted a consolidated net profit of P656 million in the first quarter, 51 percent lower from last year when the group booked huge capital gains from the sale of shares in subsidiaries.

"We're not disappointed. Under the circumstances, our first quarter results are quite good," AC managing director Rufino Luis Manotok said in a press briefing yesterday.

"If you strip our capital gains, you'll find Ayala in a more stable footing," he said.

In the same period last year, AC was able to chalk up P1.3 billion in capital gains from the sale of shares in listed subsidiaries amid the buoyant equities market.

Consolidated revenues in the first quarter of this year hit P8.99 billion, higher than the P7.24 billion a year ago owing to strong sales posted by Ayala Land Inc. and Ayala Automotive Holdings.

ALI yielded P510 million in net earnings for the first three months, 2 percent better than a year ago on strong revenues from new residential and commercial projects.

Bank of the Philippine Islands generated P1.4 billion, 8 percent lower than a year ago due to the declining trend in interest margins.

Globe Telecoms contributed P2 billion, 39 percent better than a year ago.

ABS-CBN says GMA lawsuit baseless

By Abigail L. Ho

ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. yesterday lashed back at fiercest rival GMA Network Inc. and called the P12-million civil case it filed against ABS-CBN "an act of desperation."

ABS-CBN vice president for government, corporate affairs and public relations Maloli Manalastas said in a statement yesterday that the civil case GMA Network filed against it was borne out of desperation as it could not overtake ABS-CBN in the ratings game.

"It appears that after it failed to win market leadership as measured by the ratings, GMA-7 is now trying to win through the court what it failed to get in free and open competition with ABS-CBN," she said.

Although ABS-CBN had not yet received a copy of the case filed by GMA Network with the Quezon City Regional Trial Court on May 6, Manalastas called the case "baseless."

She added that the civil case was not likely to "stand scrutiny by the court."

GMA Network is seeking payment for damages worth about P12 million from ABS-CBN and Lopez-affiliated cable firms as compensation for "acts of unfair competition."

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Friday, May 9, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4	4	4	4	14,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	15.5	15.5	15	15	205,400
Bank of the Phil. Islands	36.5	36.5	36.5	36.5	1,384,000
Citystate Savings Bank	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	24.75	24.75	24.5	24.75	71,100
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	28	28	27.5	27.5	46,500
Philippine National Bank	24	24	24	24	247,700
Security Bank Corp.	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	2,500
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	80,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1380	1380	1380	1380	2,570
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	10,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1020	1020	1010	1010	490
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	13	13	13	13	300
Diversified Fin. Network	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	4,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.75	0.77	0.74	0.75	6,480,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	585	590	565	570	39,480
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.033	0.036	0.033	0.036	17,700,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	5,300,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3	3	3	3	86,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.3	0.31	8,230,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	402.5	405	400	402.5	93,270
Ivantage Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.39	0.39	400,000
Philweb Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.012	11,300,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	102,000
Manila Electric Co. B	10	10.25	10	10	1,665,000
Petron Corp.	2.16	2.16	2.12	2.12	2,465,000
Trans-Asia Oil And Energy	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	1,000,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.48	2.55	2.48	2.55	200,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.53	0.53	0.5	0.5	2,770,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	40,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	880,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	29	29	29	29	9,600
Jollibee Foods Corp.	15.25	15.75	15.25	15.75	1,376,200
San Miguel Corp. A	56	56	55	55.5	258,100
San Miguel Corp. B	65.5	66	65.5	66	162,700
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.33	360,000
Ayala Corp.	4.15	4.2	4.15	4.15	2,947,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.32	2.32	2.28	2.28	248,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	1,000,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10	10	10	10	1,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	50,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.21	0.21	9,230,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	500,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.21	0.21	370,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	200,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	737,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	8.3	8.3	8.2	8.2	660,000
Ionics Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	10,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	6,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.56	0.57	0.56	0.57	1,080,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	1,000,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	1,020,000
Music Corp.	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.3	2,260,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.08	0.09	0.08	0.09	1,900,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	10,000
Interphil Labs Inc. A	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	12,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	10,000
Metro Alliance Hldgs B	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	17,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.9	1.92	1.84	1.88	19,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.41	0.41	0.39	0.39	1,210,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	20,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.33	0.38	0.33	0.38	200,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.18	0.25	0.18	0.25	1,980,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.095	0.105	0.095	0.105	160,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	284,000
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	10,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5	5.1	5	5	9,305,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.11	0.12	0.11	0.12	1,350,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	300,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.88	0.89	0.86	0.86	4,770,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	1,700,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	20,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	4.95	4.95	4.85	4.85	2,639,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	100,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	4,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	1,200,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	850,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	1,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0038	0.0038	0.0036	0.0036	21,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0044	0.0044	0.0042	0.0042	20,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	200,000
Interport Res.	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	10,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	4,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	80,000,000

DISCLOSURES

FIL-Estate Corp. announced the appointment of Gilbert Reyes as corporate secretary.

* * *

LIBERTY Flour Mills Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 28, 4 p.m. at the board room of Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Avenue, Makati City. Only stockholders as of April 16 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

PETRON Corp. declared a cash dividend of P0.20 per share in favor of stockholders as of May 29 and will be payable on June 25. But for stockholders whose shares are not lodged with the Philippine Central Depository, payment date will be on July 11.

* * *

ELECTED directors of San Miguel Pure Foods Co. Inc. were Eduardo Cojuangco Jr., Ramon Ang, Enrique Gomez Jr., Ferdinand Constantino, Francisco Alejo III, Leo Alvez, Jose Pardo, Menardo Jimenez and Belen Buensuceso. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

United States	Dollar	0.869716	1.000000	52.021000
Japan	Yen	0.007443	0.008558	0.445200
United Kingdom	Pound	1.393373	1.602100	83.342800
Hongkong	Dollar	0.111520	0.128226	6.670400
Switzerland	Franc	0.662389	0.761615	39.620000
Canada	Dollar	0.624751	0.718339	37.368700
Singapore	Dollar	0.499981	0.574878	29.905700
Australia	Dollar	0.559735	0.643583	33.479800
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.307124	2.652731	137.997700
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.231919	0.266660	13.871900
Brunei	Dollar	0.498548	0.573230	29.820000
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000102	0.000117	0.006100
Thailand	Baht	0.020464	0.023529	1.224000
UAE	Dirham	0.236819	0.272294	14.165000
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.149800	59.813700
Argentina	Peso	0.314545	0.361664	18.814100
Brazil	Real	0.299386	0.344234	17.907400
Denmark	Kroner	0.134656	0.154828	8.054300
India	Rupee	0.018418	0.021177	1.101600
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.228903	0.263193	13.691600
Mexico	New Peso	0.085924	0.098795	5.139400
New Zealand	Dollar	0.499034	0.573789	29.849100
Norway	Kroner	0.126940	0.145956	7.592800
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015086	0.017346	0.902400
South Africa	Rand	0.120852	0.138956	7.228600
Korea	Won	0.000726	0.000835	0.043400
Sweden	Kroner	0.109430	0.125823	6.545400
Syria	Pound	0.020708	0.023810	1.238600
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025063	0.028818	1.499100
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000545	0.000627	0.032600

INTEREST RATES

May 09, 2003-MART1 Rates

Bunchmark Interest Rates	MART1 9-May-03 (%)	MART1 8-May-03 (%)
1 Month	7.6096	7.6269
3 Months	7.8712	7.8827
6 Months	8.6789	8.6938
1 Year	9.0462	9.0096
2 Years	9.475	9.5192
3 Years	10.4077	10.5154
4 Years	11.1115	11.1981
5 Years	11.4769	11.5423
7 Years	11.9712	12.0019
10 Years	12.7538	12.7346
20 Years	13.1096	13.0873
25 Years	13.6212	13.645

SOURCE: MART/BLOOMBERG

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Resource Person: Samuel D. Bernal, M.D., Ph.D., J.D., and M.B.A. Founder, Los Angles-Boston Bio-Research. Distinguished Panelists in Educators, doctors, scientists, lawyers and businessmen will be available for questions from the participants.
An international expert on advanced education and professional development, Dr. Bernal, Has taught at Harvard, Boston Univ. & is currently a professor at U.C.L.A. He has been a Fulbright scholar & a consultant on educational programs for United Nations, U.S. Information Agency & the U.S. National Institutes of Health. Dr. Bernal is a practicing lawyer, an internist, medical oncologist, biotechnologist & a businessman.

Who Should Attend:

May 13 - Health Professional Development:
Physicians, Nurses, Medical Technologists, Midwives, Pharmacists, Physical Therapists Respiratory Therapists, Radiology Technicians, Dentists, Other health professionals

May 15 - Scientific and Technical Professional Development:
Biologists, Chemists, Pharmacologists, Laboratory technicians, Engineers, Physicists, Mathematicians, Biostatisticians, Agricultural and food scientists, Veterinarians, Computer professionals, Social scientists, Other scientific & technical professionals

May 16 - Legal, Business and Media Professional Development:
Lawyers, Legal assistants & researchers, Accountants, Managers, Advertisers, Marketers, Teachers, Writers, Media and communications professionals, Other professionals

May 13, 15, 16, 2003 at 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Fort Bonifacio Auditorium, Bonifacio Global City. Php 250.00 per session/pax with refreshments. **Fort Shuttle Bus** at Shell corner McKinley is available. For more information: call **0917-7913572 or 0917-5306090**
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NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of the Philippine National Bank will be held on May 27, 2003 at 8:00 a.m. at the Ballroom, Upper Lobby, Century Park Hotel, 599 Pablo Ocampo Sr. St., Malate, Manila.

The Agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Secretary's Proof of Notice and Quorum
3. Approval of the Minutes of the 2002 Annual Stockholders' Meeting held on June 25, 2002
4. Report of the President on the Results of Operations for the Year 2002
5. Approval of the 2002 Annual Report
6. Ratification of All Acts and Proceedings of the Board of Directors and Corporate Officers since the 2002 Annual Stockholders' Meeting
7. Election of Directors
8. Appointment of External Auditor
9. Other Matters
10. Adjournment

Minutes of the 2002 Annual Stockholders' Meeting as well as resolutions of the Board of Directors from June 26, 2002 will be available for examination during office hours at the Office of the Corporate Secretary.

Only stockholders of record as of April 28, 2003 will be entitled to vote at this meeting.

If you cannot personally attend the meeting, you may designate your authorized representative by submitting a **PROXY** to the Office of the Corporate Secretary not later than 5:00 p.m. on May 22, 2003. A Proxy shall conform with the requirements of Sec. 58 of the Corporation Code, and shall be affixed with a duly paid documentary stamp tax in accordance of Sec. 192 of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997.

Pasay City, March 21, 2003

RENATO J. FERNANDEZ
Corporate Secretary

Tanduay profit seen to hit ₱500M this year

By Doris C. Dumlao

RUM-MAKER Tanduay Holdings Inc., the hard liquor unit of taipan Lucio Tan, aims to chalk up P500 million in net profit this year, or about 14.5 percent better than year-ago level.

In an interview at the sidelines of the company's stockholders meeting on Thursday, Tanduay chief finance officer Nestor Mendones said a 5-percent growth in sales could be attained this year.

The growth in sales volume is expected to come from existing brands and the new products being developed. Tanduay recently launched Ginebra Kapitan, which seeks to challenge dominant gin brand Ginebra San Miguel.

He estimated that Tanduay had posted a 10-percent rise in net income for the first quarter compared with P83 million a year ago on the back of a 10-percent growth in sales volume. Sales hit about three million cases, he added.

During the stockholders meeting, Tanduay chair Lucio Tan said the company has P6 billion in assets and P840 million in investment funds.

Of the total funds, P300 million was invested in Victorias Milling Corp.

Tan also said Tanduay was ready to compete in the international arena. He said Tanduay had entered into a distributorship arrangement in Thailand last year to serve as its gateway into the Asean market.

In the last four months of 2002, Tan noted that Tanduay was able to export close to 100,000 cases to the country, double the commitment made by its distributor.

"This year we are targeting more than double of that," Tan said.

Mendones said Tanduay would use its experience in Thailand to penetrate other markets.

No fund infusion, no tariff shield, NSC buyers told

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

TRADE and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II said the government wanted to see first the color of money of the prospective investors in National Steel Corp. before extending any tariff shield against steel imports.

"We cannot work on any tariff hike proposal without them putting their money on the table first," said Roxas who noted that the government has yet to agree on the extent of the tariff shield to be extended to NSC.

The Philippine Iron and Steel Institute has vigorously opposed a tariff protection reportedly of up to 20 percent to be extended to incoming investors of NSC because it would jack up the import costs of the downstream steel industry. This sector of the industry is composed of makers of finished steel products.

Tariffs on NSC's products such as billets, tinplates and cold and hot rolled coils range from 0 to 7 percent.

Roxas said raising duties on these steel products was one of the government's commitments that sparked investor interest in the P10-billion steel firm.

The government has promised to shoulder the costs of getting an investment banker and undertaking a feasibility study for the sale of NSC; waive NSC's dues to the Bureau of Customs, Bureau of Internal Revenue and National Power Corp., and convince the Iligan City government to write off the firm's unpaid taxes.

Roxas said the NSC shareholders and creditors had supported his suggestion to hasten the reopening of NSC, which has been idle since November 1999, through a tolling arrangement while they search for a new investor.

He revealed that there were three parties that submitted offers for NSC—Ispat International's Global Infrastructure Holdings Ltd., Ispat Indo, and Sherman International Corp.

Roxas said the government and Danaharta, NSC's Malaysian shareholder, would reject any offer to sell NSC as scrap because their main interest was to revive the Iligan factory's operation.

MLRC eyes new Mimosa lease deal

By Elena R. Torrijos

MONDRAGON Leisure and Resorts Corp. (MLRC) of former Tourism Secretary Jose Antonio Gonzalez announced that it had signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with state-owned Clark Development Corp. (CDC) to pave the way for a new lease agreement on Mimosa Leisure Estate at Clarkfield, Pampanga, possibly through a new corporate vehicle.

"Within a period fixed by the MOU, CDC and MLRC (or a new corporate vehicle whenever applicable) shall enter into a memorandum of agreement providing for, among others, a new lease on Mimosa, new rentals and the payment scheme for MLRC's rental in arrears to CDC," MLRC corporate secretary Fernando Adrias said in a disclosure yesterday.

Adrias said that a new lease would cover the period stated in the original lease agreement between the CDC and MLRC before it was suspended due to MLRC's inability to pay its lease.

The MOU gave MLRC a re-entry mechanism to 'take back the control and management of Mimosa provided it would be able to comply with the requirements set forth by the CDC. As an alternative, Mimosa could be leased to a new corporate vehicle to be formed for the purpose.

The new corporate vehicle, when established, shall be jointly owned and managed by MLRC and certain creditors, with CDC having one seat on the board.

CDC will have oversight functions in the new corporate vehicle until such time MLRC's rental in arrears are fully paid, Adrias said.

"While the signing of the MOU is not the immediate solution to Mimosa's problems, it has opened a big window of opportunity for the company to be able to get in new investors that may enable MLRC to get back control of Mimosa and make it once again the company's profit center," Adrias said.

Location, location, location.

Strategically situated at the corner of Ayala Avenue and Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue (Buendia), The Columns, Ayala Avenue, Community Innovations, Inc.'s newest development, redefines high rise living. It provides the convenience and prestige of city life, and is within walking distance to the business, commercial and entertainment hubs of Makati's central business district.

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Garden in the city. At the Columns, Ayala Avenue, nature communes with urban living. Its design creates an open-space environment and relaxing surroundings. The interplay of greens and Zen gardens that adorn the Grand Lobbies of each tower give a soothing experience to residents and guests alike.

Three towers of power. Three towers on a continuous podium level define The Columns, Ayala Avenue. Each tower will have 30 storeys, 23 of which will be residential. The five-level upper ground parking is shielded from the outside by an artwork that gives the building prominence along Ayala and Buendia Avenues.

The layout maximizes the advantages of its prominent site, which allows more units to be facing the morning sun while avoiding the afternoon heat. Natural lighting and good ventilation are also taken into consideration in each of the studio, one-bedroom and two-bedroom residential units - a rare feature among residential condominiums.

To create a more open feel for space, select units even have bay windows; others have balconies overlooking the city. The top three levels will house very private units, which have breath-taking scenery.

The Recreational Club, which stretches across the 7th floor podium of all three towers, provides residents a source of recreation and an ideal venue for socializing with other residents. It has a 25-meter adults' lap pool, kids' pool, spacious function rooms with spill-over area, a gym, game room with mini-theater, daycare center with indoor and outdoor play area, communal wine cellar, jogging path and transient rooms for the residents' guests - almost like a hotel!

To make it even more fascinating, the ground floor will have landscaped plazas, a row of cafes and al fresco dining spots, indeed the perfect setting for unwinding after a day's busy schedule.

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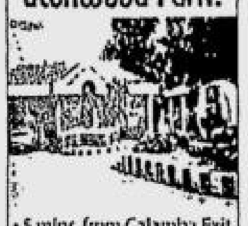

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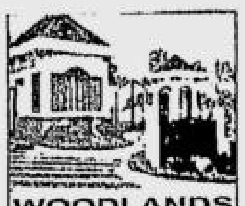

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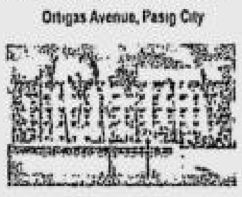

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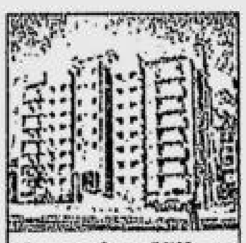

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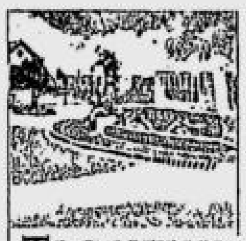

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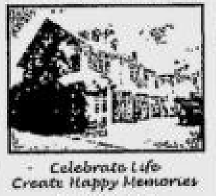
Iruhin, Tagaytay City	1,000 SQM.
Nat'l. Road, Tagaytay City	750 SQM.
Calibuyo, Tanza, Cavite	24,208 SQM.
Anuling, Mendez, Cavite	10,083 SQM.
Sta. Rosa, Laguna	43,451 SQM.

AND OTHERS...
FOR DETAILS PLS. CONTACT NOS.
0917-8922980/0917-4350938

CONDO/TWNHSE

QUEZON CITY

JUBILEE VILLAS



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HOUSE & LOT

QUEZON CITY

CAVITE

LA MEDITERRANEA 2Stry 3Bdrm 1T&B LA110m^2 FA80m^2 P1.7M Vic 8903461 loc. 27

LAGUNA

ADELINA 1 3Bdrms LA183m^2 P1.7M Vic 8903461 loc. 27

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Sta Rosa 3T/mo T5202784

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LEON GUINTO NEAR LA SALLE Bnew/3Sty/3BR/3TB/grge P3.415M 8903461 loc 34

nr UST, Espana Tower P825T Studio,until May 15 6873372

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QUEZON CITY

CUBAO P1.4M 9132224

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CONDO/TWNHSE

QUEZON CITY

Sct. Castor nr Morato 3br3tb 2cg 3.2M 6873372/09178102903

SAN JUAN

3sty 4bigBR 4TB 1mdrm balcony 4 evry flr 8.5M 4227651

LOT

ALABANG

Alabang Hills 574sqm 770-4856 Direct Buyer Only

KALOOCAN

RAINBOW VILLAGE 5 LA216m^2 P3,703/m^2 Vic 8903461 loc. 25

LAS PINAS

TALON 204m^2@P4,500 639-1694 / 0917-8102903

MARIKINA

LAMUAN NR ROOSEVELT COLL. 286M^2 933-0092

MUNTINLUPA

SOUTH GREENHTS VILL 300m^2 fenced P3,833/m^2 Vic Gigie 8903461 loc 25/27

PARANAQUE

United Pque V 302 sqm P5,000/sqm 837-08-31

PASIG

METROVILLE SUBD LA333m^2 P4,054/m^2 Vic 8903461 loc. 27

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Antipolo,Circumferential Rd com'l 108m^2 0917-8102903

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SALE / LEASE COM'L 300M^2 MAIN RD, TANAY P13T/M^2 NEGO CALL 9209678 ZENY

OTHER AREAS

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RANCHO VISTA SUBD 613/m P2,284/m^2 Vic 8903461 loc. 27

TOWN & COUNTRY HILLS LA240sqm P3,125/sqm Vic 8903461 Loc. 27

CAVITE

MERALCO DASMA 4533900

LAGUNA

MILLWOOD SUBD LA100m^2 P3,500/m^2 Vic 8903461 loc. 27

SOUTH PEAK P5,000/m^2 LA240m^2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

FARM/FISHPEN/ RAWLANDS

SAN MIGUEL LA4000m^2 P250/m^2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

TAAL Btngs 200m from Diversion Rd LA6794m^2 P186/m^2 Vic 8903461 loc. 27

ZAMBALES Mango Farm 2,7,9,10,30,68ha 09192221766

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

MAKATI

SANLO DUPLEX 5268048/49

QUEZON CITY

4BR 2TB nr FEU 9318896

NorthFrview 3br P7T 9260398

PROJ.4 3BR 2TB w/garage P10th Call Malou 4336777

RIZAL

Cainta 3.5T w/gar 8979541

CONDO/TWNHSE

KALOOCAN

NEW COM'L • OFFICE #162 P. Jacinto cor. Biglang Awa Caloocan 323-0175

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CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

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Salcedo 1Brm Must See New Rmdld T547-3472/71

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PASAY

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QUEZON CITY

Nr Munoz Edsa 3br2tb 4145596

SCT AREA 13T 3BR 4578041

APARTMENT

MAKATI

2BR PLDT nr Fort 8432783

MANILA

1BR NR P.GIL ST. 5634007 5642878

QUEZON CITY

2BR w/h20 nr sch 9123901

34 Yale CUBAO P8T 9310449

Cubao Lady P3.5 9124428

U/D Beautiful nr Cong. Ave. & Visayas Ave. call Malou 9271545/4269286

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New Mla nr. St. Paul Lady 8T/mo Rm Twhse 637-2369

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2% W/O TAKING CAR 3677523/24

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Isuzu kb 51th 9519671

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97EL VNCE 230K T6820150

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1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1HR FastCarLoan 7125202

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/o Taking Car 6567685

2% w/oTaking Car 8966633/30

2% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

CONSTRUNCTION MATERIAL

Floor Sand Mach Imported Cheap 9221655 - 4353723

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DOG TRAINER 4528681

Golden Ret/Boomer 12T Male 7210640/09208183573

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MED REP 6409528

MktgStf 0919-2535623 Glenda

PROFESSOR NURSING, COMPUTER, HRM (w/ Masteral) BSE, BSEED TEACHERS, PRINCIPAL-Secondary 9265049 9263930 9263931

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

CAREGIVER TRNG 5271590

Feng Shui 4 Success in Home & Business 7782595

NOTICE OF LOSS

Please be notified that OFFICIAL RECEIPT No. 00718 (Customer copy-cancelled series), 00717 (Customer, blue, pink, & yellow copies), 01106 (Customer, blue, pink & yellow copies) of Expressions Stationery Shop Inc. & Official Receipt No. 1659 (Customer, blue, pink & yellow copies). 1661 (Yellow copy) of Central Book Store, Inc. were lost. Any transaction under these nos. shall not be honored by said companies.
THE MANAGEMENT

INVITATION FOR QUALIFICATION AND BID

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this loan to eligible payment under the contracts for which this Invitation for Qualification and Bid is issued.

The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission as the Executing Agency and the City Government of Manila as the Implementing Agency are inviting CONTRACTORS to apply for Qualification and Bid for the following linear park packages:

Contract Package	Contract No.	Area	Location	Contract Duration	Project Description
1. Sta. Ana Market Linear Park	EPA-LPP-11	1,505m²	Near Plaza Calderon, Sta. Ana, Manila	90 Calendar days	Community Park and Promenade
2. Muelle del Banco Nacional	EPA-LPP-12	1,890m²	Muelle del Banco Road, Escolta Area (between Jones Bridge and MacArthur Bridge)	90 Calendar Days	Promenade with Café

Interested contractors will be required to submit their accomplished qualification documents and bid proposals at the same time in two (2) separate sealed envelopes. The envelope containing the bid will be kept in a sealed box, which will not be opened until after the completion of the qualification evaluation, and the list of qualified contractors has been finalized. Only the bids of qualified contractors will be opened on the date of bid opening. The bids of disqualified contractors will be returned unopened.

Interested contractors may obtain further information and secure the qualification and bid documents at the following address:

Flagship Projects Management Office
Museo ng Maynila
T.M. Kalaw St. corner Roxas Boulevard, Manila
Telephone No. 528-1136

A complete set of qualification and bid documents may be secured by interested contractors from the above address from 12 May 2003, upon submission of a letter of intent and proof of payment (receipt) from PRRC of a non-refundable fee of Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php2,500.00) per contract package. Interested contractors are requested to pay at the PRRC office, 2nd Floor, Engineering Building, MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, before securing the qualification and bid documents at the Flagship Projects Management Office, Museo ng Maynila.

Site Inspection and Pre-Bid Conference is on 30 May 2003, 10 a.m. at the Conference Room of the above-mentioned address. The accomplished qualification documents and the bid in two (2) separate sealed envelopes must be submitted to the same office before 1200 hours on 30 June 2003. The date of bid opening will be announced later.

The contractors shall submit together with qualification documents a notarized sworn statement stating their project workload as of date of bidding, including newly awarded but not yet started contracts with corresponding contract amount.

All particulars relative to Prequalification, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract shall be governed by the ADB Procurement Guidelines and other pertinent laws and regulations. The BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive minor informalities, or accept such bids which will be the most advantageous to the government. The decision of BAC is final and binding.

(Sgd.) DEOGRACIAS J. TABLAN, JR.
BAC Chairperson

(PDI – May 10 & 17, 2003)

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE is given that Makati Medical Center Stock Cert.#1626 issued to ELVIRA S. EDUQUE with 228 shares was lost. If no contest received new certificates will be issued.
(PDI-May 9, 10 & 11, 2003)

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

PRIME BAZAAR SPACES For inquiries, please call 867-8959 • 0918-5124068

RTW Wholesaler 09167940002

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Triumph Jockey D'lers 5106-937

DIRECT SALE

GENERIC MEDICINES FOR DENTIST 6409558

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
East Avenue, Quezon City 1100, Philippines
Telephone No. 925-2401 to 50

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY & TO BID

The Philippine Heart Center (PHC) is inviting bidders for 6 months contract for:

DESCRIPTION	Bidding Fee
Medical/Laboratory Supplies	P1,000.00 /co.
Pharmaceutical Supplies (medicines)	1,500.00 /principal
Foodstuffs Supplies	500.00 /co.

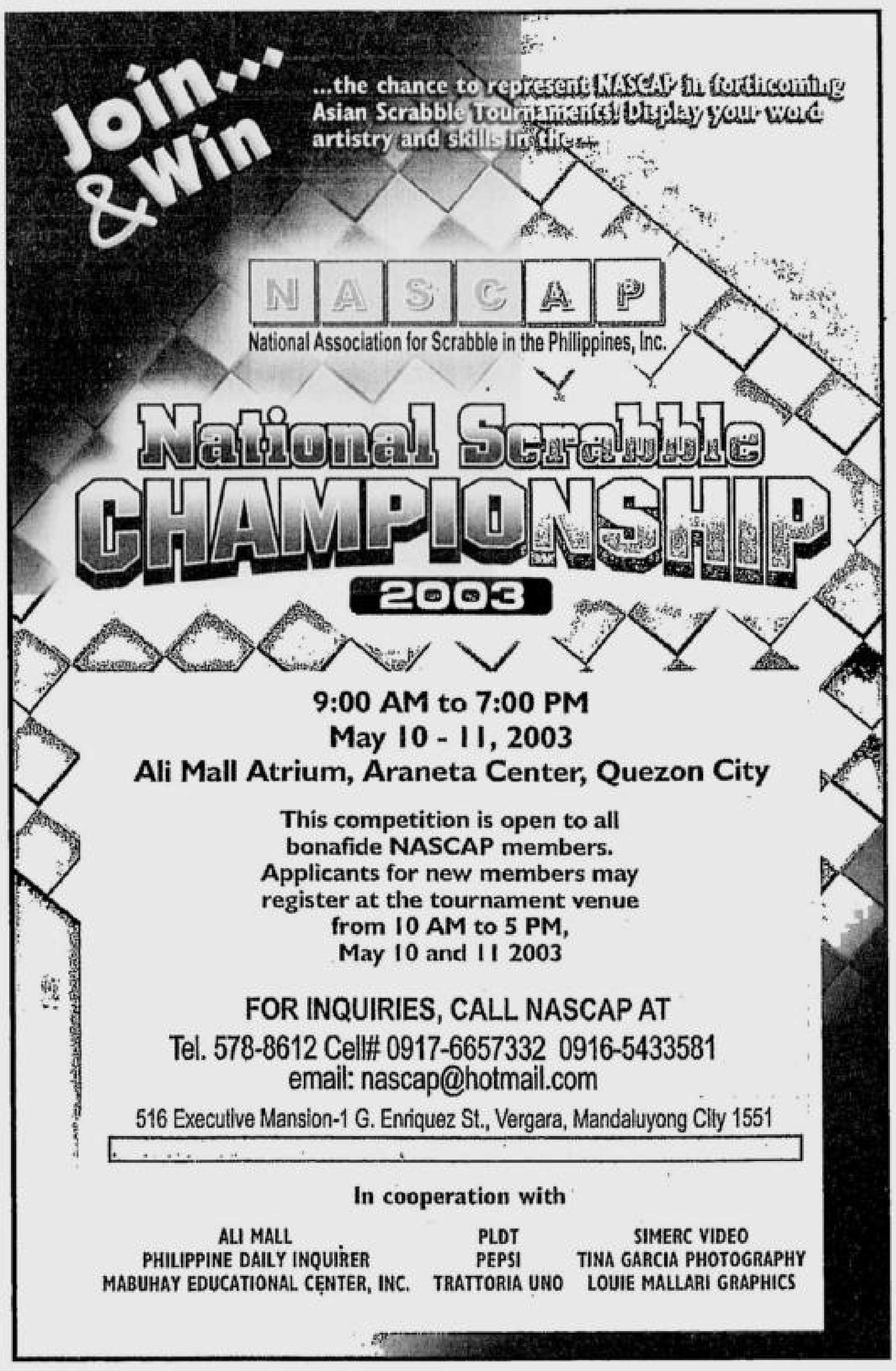
Source of Funding PHC FUNDS

The lists of registration requirements will be issued at the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat, Purchasing Division, Basement of MAB, PHC, East Avenue, Quezon City. Only eligible bidders shall be required to pay the non-refundable fee. The deadline for the submission of requirements is on May 30, 2003 not later than 5:00 p.m. For inquiry, please call Purchasing Division at 922-0574 ask for Noemi.

The PHC reserves the right to reject any or all bids offering any reason to waive any formality or technicality, and to award any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to PHC. The PHC neither assumes any obligation for any loss whatsoever that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of their respective bids, nor does the PHC guarantee an award will be made.

(Sgd.) RAUL D. JARA, M.D.
Chairman, BAC

(PDI - May 10, 11, 17 & 18, 2003)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National Scrabble CHAMPIONSHIP
2003

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9:00 AM to 7:00 PM
May 10 - 11, 2003
Ali Mall Atrium, Araneta Center, Quezon City

This competition is open to all bonafide NASCAP members. Applicants for new members may register at the tournament venue from 10 AM to 5 PM, May 10 and 11 2003

FOR INQUIRIES, CALL NASCAP AT
Tel. 578-8612 Cell# 0917-6657332 0916-5433581
email: nascap@hotmail.com
516 Executive Mansion-1 G. Enriquez St., Vergara, Mandaluyong City 1551

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MABUHAY EDUCATIONAL CENTER, INC.
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TINA GARCIA PHOTOGRAPHY
LOUIE MALLARI GRAPHICS

ANNOUNCES THE VACANCY FOR HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT HEAD

- will be responsible for the planning and development of organizational structure of the Coop, recommendation of personnel management policies, methods and procedures on recruitment, selection, training & development and retirement of personnel
- must be graduate of AB Psychology or other Behavioral Sciences with at least 3 years experience in related field
- computer literate, with ability to speak and write effectively in English
- not more than 35 years old

Applicants are requested to apply in person together with their Biodata with picture, application and recommendation letters, transcript of records, certificates of previous employment & clearances (barangay, police, NBI & drug test) at:

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION
CAGELCO II Main Office
Macanaya District, Aparri, Cagayan
Tel. No. (078) 8228506

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION: 10 JUNE 2003

SBMA DISPOSAL COMMITTEE
SBMA Bldg. 709, Cor. Burgos & Quezon Sts.,
Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Phils. 2222
Telephone: (6347) 252-4613/4219/4474
Fax: (6347) 252-4339

INVITATION TO BID

FOR THE SALE OF ASSORTED DISPOSABLE/SURPLUS/ UNSERVICEABLE AND OTHER SCRAP MATERIALS "AS IS, WHERE IS"

ITEM	DESCRIPTION/LOCATION	SCHEDULE OF BIDDING
Lot 1	Unserviceable/Disposable Generator Set and Auxiliary Units located at Building 2926 Power Plant, Grande Island, SBFZ, SBMA	May 30, 2003 - 2:00 PM
Lot 2	Demolition of Building 148 - PWTSG Construction & Maintenance Office/ Shop, Canal Road, CDB, SBFZ	May 30, 2003 - 2:00 PM
Lot 3	Demolition of Building 198 - LIDO Office/Management/Tire Shop	May 30, 2003 - 2:00 PM
Lot 4	Demolition of Building 384 - Transportation Admin Office, Canal Road, CBD, SBFZ	May 30, 2003 - 2:00 PM
Lot 5	Demolition of Building 728 - Lube Oil Storage, Canal Road, CBD, SBFZ	May 30, 2003 - 2:00 PM
Lot 6	Demolition of Building 127 - Air Compressor Shed, Dewey Avenue, SBFZ	May 30, 2003 - 2:00 PM

I. Buyers are requested to submit the following Pre-qualification documents at the Procurement and Property Management Department (PPMD), Bldg. 709, SBMA, Subic Bay Freeport Zone.
  1. Certificate of Accreditation as Scrap Hauler from Trade & Tourism Group or PPMD, SBMA.
  2. Latest Income Tax Return (ITR 2003) of the bidder or copies of Audited Financial Statement of the Company and Certification of Cash Deposit by a reputable bank.

II. Deadline of submission of the Pre-Qualification Papers is on *May 21, 2003, Wednesday (5:00 PM)*. No extension.

III. Pre-Bid Conference and Issuance of Bid Forms (P100.00 per set) will be on *May 26, 2003, Monday (3:00 PM)*.

IV. Bid Bond is required in the form of cash or manager's check equivalent to ten percent (10%) of the total bid price in favor of SBMA.

V. Inspection will strictly be by group on the following schedules:

LOT	DATE	TIME
1	May 22, 2003	- 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
2, 3, 4, 5 & 6	May 23, 2003	- 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

VI. For other information, inquiries and/or request for inspection, call Tel. Nos. (047) 2524613 / 4219 (c/o Mr. Dennis Baviera).

VII. SBMA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality found therein or to reject/accept such bids as may be deemed most advantageous to SBMA.

Done this 8th of May 2003.

(Sgd.) **CAPT. VICTOR L. MAMON**
SDA for Operation
Chairman, Disposal Committee

(PDI - May 10 & 16, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
East Avenue, Quezon City 1100, Philippines
Telephone No. 925-2401 to 50

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY & TO BID

The Philippine Heart Center (PHC) is inviting contractors to participate in the biding for the replacement of peripheral glass windows at the Hospital Building. The following are the registration requirements needed:

1. Letter of Intent
2. Legal requirements
   - Current holder of at least Medium A under Building and Industrial Plant Classification - Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB)
   - Sole proprietorship (Filipino Citizen)
   - Partnership (at least 75% belongs to Filipino Citizen)
   - Corporation (75% of Outstanding Capital Stocks belong to Filipino Citizen)
3. Completed largest similar contract or on-going similar contact ≥ 50% of ABC
4. Contractor's Performance Evaluation System (CPES) rating and/or certificate of completion and owners acceptance

DESCRIPTION	ABC	BIDDING FEE
Replacement of Peripheral Glass Windows of Hospital Building	P11,623,893.54	P11,623.89

Source of Funding PHC FUNDS
Terms of Payment . It shall be based on the provision of the contract as attached in the Terms of Reference.

The lists of eligibility requirements will be issued at Bids and Awards Secretariat (BAC), Purchasing Division, PHC, Basement, MAB, East Avenue, Quezon City. Only eligible bidders shall be required to pay the non-refundable fee. The deadline for the submission of requirements is on May 28, 2003 not later than 5:00 p.m. For inquiry, please call Purchasing Division at 922-0574.

The agency reserves the right to reject any & all bids or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, if there is evidence of collusion between relevant public officer or employees of the agency or the BAC & any of the bidders, or among the bidders, or between bidders & third parties, including any act which restricts, suppresses or nullifies competition, or if the BAC is found to have failed to follow the prescribed bidding procedures. The agency also reserves the right to waive any required formality in the bid received, provided that such waiver does not refer to a major deviation in a bid or any requirement provided in their E.O. 40 IRR pertaining to the substance of a bid.

(Sgd.) RAUL D. JARA, M.D.
Chairman BAC

(PDI - May 10, 11, 17 & 18, 2003)

CAGAYAN II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Aparri, Cagayan

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Cagayan II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CAGELCO) is inviting all interested bidders to pre-qualify and to bid for the following materials and equipment:

Concrete Poles, Wires, and Transformers and line Materials

To be qualified, bidder must have fully complied with the following:

1) Accreditation requirements: (for submission to PBAC Chairman, Mrs. Blandina Y Madamba)
   a. Company profile
   b. Business registration
   c. Business Permit
   d. BIR/VAT Certifical
   e. Latest Income Tax Return (ITR)
   f. List of Clients for a period of 3 years, if applicable
2) Must be able to pay P2,000.00 (for this particular bidding only and not refundable) for the bid documents during the pre-bidding conference.

CAGELCO II reserves the right to reject any/or all bids without any reason, waive any formality therein, accept proposal most advantageous to cooperative and assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify any bidder for expenses or, losses that may be incurred in preparation of bid nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

Pre-bid conference and bidding schedules shall be informed to all qualified bidders through fax and mails.

Deadline of submission of requirements - May 24, 2003.

(Sgd.) GABRIEL A. TORDESSILAS
General Manager

Note: For the extension of laterals lines for the following areas:
Sitio Batal, Barangay Alinunu, Sitio Macugay, Guiddem; Barangay Cunig Gattaran, Barangay Daqueray West of Sanchez Mira, all of Cagayan

Source of fund: 1. 2002 National Electrification Administration (NEA) Subsidy
2. PDAF of APEC Representative, Hon. Ernesto Pablo

(PDI - May 10 & 17, 2003)

PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY

Special Economic Zone Environment Management Project

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY/APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The Government of the Philippines (GOP), hereinafter called "the Government" through the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) hereinafter called "the Employer", invites interested local and foreign contractors to apply for Eligibility and Prequalification and if prequalified, to bid for the STP Rehabilitation Project of the Special Economic Zone Environment Management Project — Bataan Economic Zone.
2. This is the second invitation to Prequalify/Apply for Eligibility and to Bid for SEZEMP-Bataan, STP Rehabilitation Project. Nobody pre-qualified in the first invitation. The project description is still the same particularly.
3. Budgetary Project Cost : P 120M
   Source of Fund : GOP (PEZA)
   Construction Period : 365 Calendar Days
   Tentative Starting Date : September, 2003

   SCOPE OF WORK
   a. Rehabilitation of Existing Sewage Treatment Plant (Rated Capacity 15,500 cu.m. / day)
   b. Construction of New Sludge Drying Bed (Approx. 9,000 sq.m.)
   c. Repair of Existing Sludge Pump Room, Admin. and Disinfections Bldg., (approx. 1,800 sq.m.)
   d. Construction of New Guard House (approx. 6 sq.m.)
   e. Rehabilitation of Existing Road and Landscaping (Approx. 11,300 sq.m.)
4. The application of pre-qualification is open to bona fide qualified contractor from all countries and areas. Foreign Contractor Applicants should be licensed in their own country/area, or has filed an application for Special License at PCAB, and must satisfy with the requirements of EO 40, i.e. forming themselves into joint venture with local contractor; and Local Contractor Applicants must be holding PCAB "AAA" License & Certificate of Registration and Classification of Contractors as Large "B" for Sewerage or Sewage System and/or Water Treatment Plant and System.
5. Contractors forming themselves into a Joint Venture shall comply with the provisions for the procurement of civil works under the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Executive Order No. 40, series of 2001 (EO 40).
6. In view of the size of the project and relative advanced construction and technology required, eligible contractors shall have an adequate expertise and experience in the similar projects. The Applicant must meet the following minimum requirement.
   - The value of the prospective bidder's largest single contract, adjusted to current prices completed and similar to the contract to be bid must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the approved budget for the contract to be bid.
   - Successful experience in the execution of construction and/or rehabilitation projects of at least three (3) sewerage/water treatment plant/system having a capacity of at least 1,000 cu.m. per day or at least one (1) sewerage/water treatment plant/system having the capacity of 15,000 cu.m. per day comparable to the proposed project within the last ten (10) years.
   - The prospective Applicant's Net Financial Contracting Capacity (NFCC) based on his net working capital must be at least equal to the estimated budget for the contract.
7. Pre-qualification Document may be procured upon submission of the following:
   Letter of Intent, Authorization to Purchase Document, certified true copy of the Contractor's License and Certificate of Registration and Classification (for Local Contractor); and license in their own country/area (for Foreign Contractors).
8. Prequalification document will be made available for issuance starting March 21, 2003 at the PEZA-SEZEMP Office c/o BAC Secretariat, 3/F Almeda Building, Roxas Blvd., cor. San Luis St., Pasay City, upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P3,000.00. The deadline for submission of accomplished Pre-qualification Documents in sealed envelope (1-original & 5-copies) shall be on **June 02, 2003**, not later than 5:00 PM at the same venue mentioned above.
9. PEZA shall notify the Applicants regarding the results of the Pre-qualification evaluation on or about **June 25, 2003**. The plans and Bid Documents shall be issued by PEZA not later than **June 26, 2003**, upon payment by the pre-qualified contractor's of non-refundable amount of P30,000.00.
10. The tentative schedule of the Site Inspection and Pre-bid Conference is on **July 14** and **July 21, 2003**, respectively. Moreover, the date of bidding shall be on **August 11, 2003**; wherein the dropping and opening of bids shall be held at the same venue as stated above at 10:00 AM.
11. All particulars relative to the procurement of the contract shall be governed by the provisions of E.O. 40, series 2001 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations and other applicable rules and regulation.
12. PEZA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defects contained therein, and accepts the offer most advantageous to the government.

BAC-Chairman
Philippine Economic Zone Authority

(PDI - May 10 & 17, 2003)

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Call Mr. Nick Olivar or Engr. Santos Ramos
at 5513431/45 for details.

INVITATION TO BID "AS IS WHERE IS"

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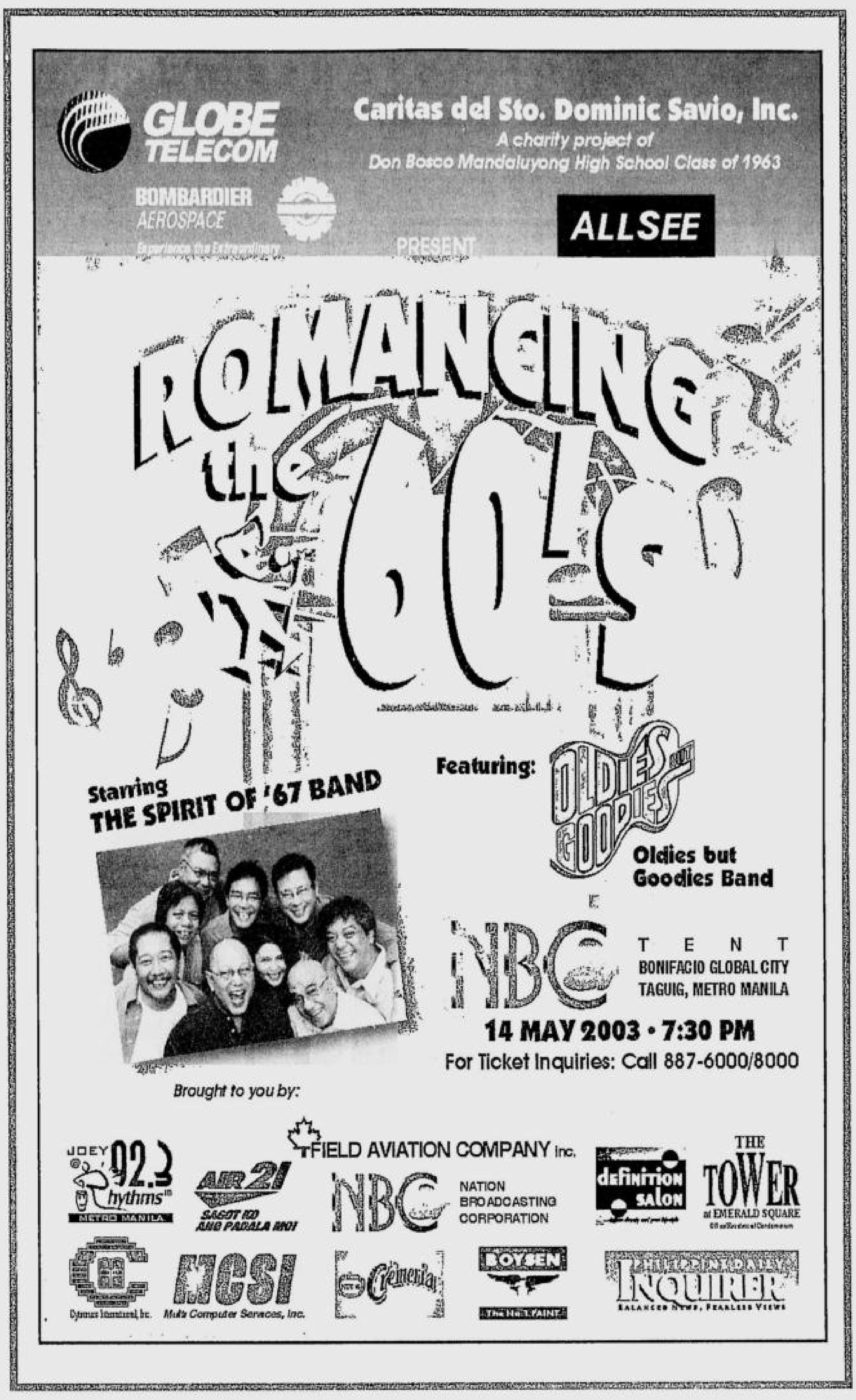

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

Telefax: 633-93-42
Direct Line: 631-96-40
Trunk Line: 632-13-61 locals 2007/2221

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

DepEd -- BNFE - 03-04-01

The Department of Education through the Bureau of Non-Formal Education is inviting all suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Printing and Delivery of Translated Basic Literacy Learning Materials. For purposes of record and in compliance with the law, the Department has an approved budget of P2.4 million for printing, delivery and administrative cost.

All interested printers may avail of the bidding documents upon submission of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00) starting **May 5 - 16, 2003** at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm. 112-A, Mabini Bldg., DepEd Complex, Pasig City or visit the DepEd Website at http://www.deped.gov.ph.

A pre-bid conference will be held on **May 16, 2003**, 10:00 AM at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Bldg. 1, DepEd Complex, Pasig City. The deadline for the submission and opening of bids shall be on **June 2, 2003** at the same time and place mentioned above.

DepEd-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids. DepEd-BAC further reserves the right to declare a failure of bid, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ**
Undersecretary
Chairman, DepEd-BAC

(PDI--May 3, 6 & 10, 2003)

U.S. EMBASSY PROPERTY DISPOSAL SALE

SEALED BID SALE of used US government-owned household and office furniture, appliances, office machines, gym equipment and vehicles on an "As-Is-Where Is" basis.

The property may be inspected at the Main Disposal warehouse and the Old Commissary, Seafront Compound, US Embassy, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City on May 12 to 14, 2003 from 8:00 am to 11:30 am and 1:00 to 3:30 pm. Bids, accompanied by a cash deposit of at least 20% of the bid price, will be accepted during the inspection dates at the GSO Cashier located at Seafront Compound.

Please be advised that there is no vehicle access or parking available at the Seafront Compound. Pedestrian access will be limited to the Roxas Boulevard gate only.

For particulars, please contact:

Ms. Hilda M. Legaspi
Tel. No. 523-1001 ext. 2702

(PDI-May 10 & 11, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
Center for Health Development - Ilocos
MARIANO MARCOS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER
"PHIC Accredited Health Care Provider"
Batac, Ilocos Norte
Trunk line 077-792-3144; Fax line 077-792-3133
E-mail address: mmmh@laoag.net

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY/ELIGIBILITY SCREENING & TO BID

The Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital & Medical Center, Batac, Ilocos Norte, thru the Bids & Awards Committee is inviting bids from accredited suppliers, manufacturers and/or exclusive distributors to bid for the supply and delivery of the following:

Hospital Medical Equipment
Drugs & Medicines Requirements
Medical/Surgical Supplies, Laboratory, X'ray & Dental Supplies

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES:

1. Issuance of Eligibility Documents	- May 08 - 16, 2003
2. Submission of duly accomplished eligibility documents	- May 26, 2003
3. Posting of eligible suppliers	- May 28, 2003
4. Issuance of Bid Documents	- May 28 - June 06, 2003
5. Pre-bid conference	- June 11, 2003 10:00 AM sharp MMMH & MC Training Center
6. Submission & opening of sealed bids for - Medical Equipment	- June 25, 2003 9:30 AM sharp (same venue)
- Drugs & Medicines	- June 26, 2003 9:30 AM sharp
- Medical/Surgical Supplies, Laboratory, X'ray and Dental Supplies	- June 27, 2003 9:30 AM sharp

The complete set of bid documents may be purchased by the interested eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of EIGHT HUNDRED PESOS (Php 800.00) only. Bid documents may be secured at the Property & Supply Section.

The Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital & Medical Center reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without offering any reason or waive any formality therein and to award the contract to the bidder whose proposals as evaluated by the Bids & Awards Committee, is the most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **REYNALDO B. NARAVAL, M.D.**
BAC Chairman

(PDI--May 10 & 15, 2003)

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OBITUARIES

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

RAMONA C. FELIX

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord on April 24, 2003

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who offered masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy and who in countless ways, condoled with and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

BGEN SAULITO R AROMIN AFP

27 Jan 1950- 10 May 2001
On his Second Death Anniversary

Is lovingly remembered by wife **Becky**, daughters- **Sherlock, Sigrid, Shirley;** sons- **Roland, Ram** & relatives. We request readers to pray for him.

Masses are being offered at the following:

St. Ignatius Pro-Cathedral, Camp Aguinaldo -7:30 am
USTH-CD Chapel -6:30 am
St. Michael Chapel, Fort Bonifacio -5:30 pm
USTH-Pay Chapel -12:15 pm

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ANTONIO B. DIAZ

(PSSLU FEDERATION)

June 13, 1922 - May 08, 2003

His wife **Corazon**; children **Chito & Linda, Bebot, Aida, Rolly & Alice, Junnie & Sonia, Merle & Francis,** and **Evie**, grandchildren, relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

The body lies in state at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels in Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, May 14, 2003 at the Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque City.

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Matthew 10:39

7

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"I am the resurrection and life.
He who believes in Me, will live, even though he dies, and whoever believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25-26

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KALAW: 528-0213; 527-3342
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CECILIA DE OCAMPO

of Makati City

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on May 06, 2003 at the age of 84.

Her sons and daughters **Melanio, Lourdes, Amelia, Ma. Elena, Antonio, Gertrudes, Eduardo, Reynaldo**; in-laws; grandchildren and other relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on Sunday, May 11, 2003 at Heritage Memorial Park, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

In Commemoration
of the
5th Death Anniversary
of our beloved

CONSTANTINO "Oguing" CERVANTES NAVARRO SR.

Nov. 11, 1914 – May 11, 1998

former Governor, Assemblyman & Congressman, Surigao del Norte (1959-1992)

The widow **Helene Borromeo Herrera**; children **Cong. Constantino Jr., Marlene, Conshele & Rora** (now Ambassador to Switzerland); in-laws, grandchildren & great grandchildren request the pious reader to join them in the celebration of the Holy Mass tomorrow, Sunday, May 11, 2003, 6:15 p.m. at Mt. Carmel Shrine. Dinner will follow after the 7:30 p.m. Mass at the Navarro residence.

MA. CELINA "CHING" LAICO DAVID

of Sun Valley Subdivision, Parañaque City
Born December 3, 1937

Peacefully joined her Creator on May 7, 2003.

Her husband **Vic David** and her children **Arthur & Grace, Michael, Rey & Jovits, Gina, Paul & Joy, Sarah** and **Ed**; her grandchildren **Lizzie, Nicole & Joshua**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at St. Gabriel Hall, OLMHP, Bougainville Road, Sun Valley Subdivision, Parañaque City. Masses will be held every night at 8:00 p.m. from Wednesday to Saturday (May 7 to 10, 2003).

Last Mass will be on Sunday, May 11, 2003, 9:00 a.m. at St. Gabriel Chapel, Sun Valley Subdivision, Parañaque City. Interment will follow after the Mass.

Our Dearly Beloved

PARALUMAN ELLA ABUEL

of Lucban, Quezon
April 9, 1915 – May 6, 2003

Peacefully joined her Creator at the age of 88.

Her loving nieces **NORMA, FRANCY**; nephews **TOMMY, SIEG, WILBERT, WILNER**; sister-in-law **ANTONIA**; nieces-in-law **SUSAN, BETH**; grandnephews **JOJO, MICHAEL, DENNIS, PHILMOR, WRIAN, BOLIVAR, JAMESON, JAROLD, ROY, LAUREN, ALLEN** and **LUIGI** and relatives request friends and all the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Nacional Memorial Homes, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be tomorrow, Sunday (May 11, 2003) at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

In Loving Memory
on the
12 Death Anniversary
of

Daniel M. Ragasa

January 3, 1915 - May 10, 1991

To Our Everdearest Daddy:

The years that have passed have in no way diminished the pain of your loss in our midst, but we know that you are in better hands with Him, the Almighty God. For now, the memories of your goodness, your unselfish love for all of us, and our wonderful times together will fill our hearts and minds till we join you for all eternity...

We love you...

Loving wife Doring; and children Myrna, Dante, Eddie, Doris and Daisy.
We request relatives, friends and pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

The children of

JOSEFINA "PENNY" AMBROSIO-ABADILLA

born and raised in Sta. Cruz, Laguna
widow of **Mariano "Naning" Abadilla, Sr.**
would like to inform relatives and friends of
her peaceful return to our Creator on
May 8, 2003 in Sydney, Australia.

Christian service and cremation will be
on Saturday, May 10th, 8:15 a.m.
(Manila Time).

September 22, 1919 - May 8, 2003

"I am the Resurrection and the Life,
He who believes in Me will Live,
even though he dies, and whoever
believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25-26

Dr. Amadeo F. Lustre, Jr.

May 7, 1938 - May 8, 2003

beloved son of **Amadeo S. Lustre, Sr.** (†)
Rosita F. Lustre (†)
beloved brother of **Rosauro F. Lustre** (†)

His loving wife **Norma**; children **Alec, Eric, Mae** & **Marc**; children-in-law **Maita** & **Rica**; grandchildren **Alexis**; **Raphael** & **Lorenzo**; **Anjuli, Nicolo** & **Bea**; mother-in-law **Fermina C. San Diego**; brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law; cousins, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Jose Rizal Chapel, La Funeraria Paz (inside Manila Memorial Park) Sucat, Parañaque City.

Cremation will follow the 3:00 p.m. Mass on Tuesday, May 13, 2003.

The Board of Directors and Staff
of
Teekay Shipping Philippines, Inc.

extend its deepest condolences
to the bereaved family of

Atty. Jaime R. Blanco

(Member of the Board of Directors)

who joined our Creator
on May 8, 2003.

TK TEEKAY SHIPPING PHILIPPINES, INC.

Atty. ARTEMIO M. SACAGUING SR.

NBI

Died on April 26, 2003 at the age of 62 in Los Angeles, California, USA.

He is survived by his loving wife **Brenda** and children **Malou** & **Tony, Jinky** & **Abnel, Gladys** & **Thad, Lanie** & **Jojo, Kim** & **Monina, Troy** & **Apple, Thor** & **Candy, Nheng** & **Mark, Liway** & **Glenn** and grandchildren.

His remains lie in state at the NBI Chapel, Taft Avenue, Manila.

Interment will be on Tuesday, May 13, 2003 at La Loma Cemetery.

His family requests the pious readers especially those whose lives he touched to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

FRANCISCO C. NARANJILLA

Joined his Creator on May 8, 2003 at the age of 71.

His loving wife **Narding**; his children and children-in-law **Danny** and **Ivy, Jojo** and **Irene, Frankie** and **Cielo, Raymund** and **Pinky, Leonard** and **Aileen**; grandchildren and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains now lie in state at Nacional Memorial Homes (Chapel 2-A), G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on Monday, May 12, 2003 at La Funeraria Paz-Crematorium after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

SCIENCE/HEALTH

E-mail: pr_science_health@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**
Assistant Editor **Stella O. Gonzales**

7 int'l guidelines to reduce dangers of childbearing

By Charles E. Buban

GUIDE LINES

AS SOME 1,400 women die every day from problems related to pregnancy and childbirth, tens of thousands more experience complications during pregnancy, a situation that puts their life and their children on the line or leave them with severe disabilities.

According to "Facts for Life," a book co-published by eight world agencies including the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Health Organization, there is always that risk that something may go wrong in any pregnancy since most of these complications cannot be predicted.

But it does not mean the mother, her family and the community around her cannot do anything to reduce these dangers of childbearing, the book said.

Suggestions

According to the book, the health of both women and children can be significantly improved when births are spaced at least two years apart, when pregnancy is avoided before age 18 and after age 35, and when a woman has no more than four pregnancies.

"Facts for Life" further suggested that all pregnant women should visit a health worker for prenatal care, and all births should be assisted by a skilled birth attendant.

The family of a pregnant woman must be able to identify the warning signs of pregnancy problems and must have plans for obtaining skilled help immediately if problems arise.

These warning signs include spotting or bleeding during pregnancy or profuse or persistent bleeding after delivery, severe headaches or stomachaches, severe or persistent vomiting, high fever, the water breaks before due time for delivery, convulsions, severe pain, and prolonged labor (over 12 hours).

7 key messages

The book listed seven key messages on safe motherhood and the responsibilities every family and community must remember in protecting pregnant women:

- Recognize the warning signs of pregnancy-related problems and have plans and resources for getting skilled help immediately.
- A skilled birth attendant, such as a doctor, nurse or trained midwife, should check the woman at least four times during pregnancy and should assist at every birth.
- All pregnant women need particularly nutritious meals and more rest than usual throughout the pregnancy.
- Smoking, alcohol, drugs, poisons and pollutants are especially harmful to pregnant women and young children.
- Physical abuse of women and children is a serious public health problem in many communities. Abuse during pregnancy is dangerous both to the woman and the fetus.
- Girls who are educated, healthy and have a good diet during their childhood and teenage years will have fewer problems during pregnancy and childbirth.
- Every woman has the right to health care, especially during pregnancy and childbirth. Health care providers should be technically competent and should treat women with respect.

The book reminded the public that most governments have ratified an international agreement, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, that includes a legally binding commitment to provide the services pregnant women need.

The book is published by the Unicef, WHO, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations Population Fund, United Nations Development Program, Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS, World Food Program and the World Bank.

Since it came out 14 years ago, "Facts for Life" has become one of the world's most popular books, with more than 15 million copies in print.

Malnourished moms prone to premature deliveries?

POOR maternal nutrition just before conception and during the early days of pregnancy may be a primary cause of premature birth, according to New Zealand researchers who studied the effects of undernourishment on mother sheep.

The study found that depriving ewes of food for 60 days before they mated and for 30 days afterward led to an early birth of their lambs.

Dr. Frank F. Bloomfield of the University of Auckland said the study was prompted by the rising trend of premature births among women. He said sheep are a commonly used animal models to study pregnancy and fetal development.

"If this data is applicable to humans then this would suggest that if women are poorly nourished around conception then they are at increased risk of preterm birth," said Bloomfield.

Premature birth is a major public health problem because underdeveloped babies are at increased risk of death during the first year of life and are more likely to develop heart, lung and brain disorders if they survive.

Bloomfield said his studies with sheep suggest that undernourishment of the mother causes the early maturing of part of the hormone system in the developing fetus even though the undernutrition occurred months before birth.

A study in India found that poorly nourished women tended to deliver early. Another study, dating from World War II, found that Dutch women who conceived during a time when food was very scarce tended to deliver their babies before the full term of pregnancy. *AP*

Maternal privilege

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

MOTHER'S Day was created by a woman who wanted to celebrate the wonderful person her mother was. In honor of mothers everywhere then—and because including a white carnation with each copy of this issue is cost-prohibitive and messy (think of mashed white flowers covered in black ink during the printing process)—today's column is fittingly dedicated to the scientific benefits of motherhood.

Today's study comes from the Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Research in Oregon (pronounced "organ" by the natives if you ever find yourself in that state between California and Washington). The May issue of the Journal of Bone and Mineral Research includes the findings of Dr. Teresa Hillier and her colleagues from the Study of Osteoporotic Fractures.

Nearly 10,000 women in four different states were involved in the study, and all of them were at least 65 at the time it began.

By following these patients for an average of 10 years and factoring in age, weight, activity levels and whether or not they were taking calcium or estrogen supplements, researchers had hoped to gain a greater understanding of the correlation between hip fractures and a woman's health. What they found out, however, was a relationship that chalked up another benefit to motherhood.

Hip strength

According to Dr. Hillier et al., an elderly woman who never gave birth is 44 percent more likely to break her hip than a woman who has had a child. Even more interestingly, for each succeeding child a woman has, her chances of breaking a hip go down by 9 percent.

Now for a little math exercise: how many children will a woman need to have to completely eradicate her chances of breaking a hip in her old age? Correct entries will be featured in next week's column.

Some of you may be wondering what childbirth has to do with hip strength. The researchers aren't 100 percent sure, but they think a woman's hips and pelvic region are realigned during pregnancy and the birthing process (which makes sense because how else would the fetus manage to actually emerge from his mother's body?), which could have long-lasting positive effects on their bone structures.

It may even be that it's the pregnancy that changes the hip structure rather than the birthing process itself as Hillier et al. do not differentiate between women who gave birth naturally against those who gave birth through cesarean section.

The researchers have also downplayed any suggestion that a woman's bone mineral density changes during pregnancy and could therefore explain the lowered risk of hip fractures. Many doctors measure bone mineral density levels to determine how strong or weak a woman's bones are, but researchers found no marked differences between the levels of women who were childless and women who were mothers.

As someone who spent several years of her childhood building rectangular balsa wood structures that weighed no more than 16 ounces and were eight inches high and three inches across strong enough to hold several pounds of weight (our record was 55, I believe, but that was years ago), I can assure you that how you reinforce a structure can make all the difference. Gluing pieces of wood one on top of the other just isn't as strong as using diagonal braces to break two squares into four right triangles.

Other factors

In an effort to see what other factors might explain this relationship, Dr. Hillier and her colleagues looked at each woman's height and weight at age 25, their current medical records (medications being taken and conditions), asked if their own mothers had suffered hip fractures, and if the women themselves had broken any bones after age 50.

Surprisingly, the answers to each of these questions varied, but the correlation between hip fractures and motherhood remained the same.

Does this mean women should have at least one child to be healthy during their own old ages?

To quote Dr. Hillier in the Kaiser-Permanente press release, "We do not expect that women will alter their childbearing choices based on these findings. However, we hope that women who choose not to have a child or cannot have a child will see their physicians to assess their risk factors and find out what kind of preventive actions they should take."

So here's to mothers (past, present and future) everywhere: may your hips never break, may your children always be there for you, and may you always get lots of hugs and kisses.

PS. The chocolate ones make your bones happy.

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Sales of anti-impotence pills in Philippines reach P500M

By Raul C. Dancel
Contributor

SINCE April 1998 when Pfizer Inc. unleashed its anti-erectile dysfunction drug Viagra (sildenafil citrate) in the Philippine market, sales have been anything but limp. More than P500-million worth of Viagra has been sold in the country.

Help?
StephB.

Surveys show that in the Philippines, Viagra works for nine in 10 men who use it. In comparison, the drug works for only four in five men in the United States.

The drug fails in cases when the patient is suffering from hypertension, diabetes or stroke or if there are "very strong psychological problems," according to cardiologist Dr. Romeo Divinagracia of St. Luke's Medical Center.

Not an aphrodisiac

Viagra works by increasing blood flow to the penis, Divinagracia explains. It is not a hormone or an aphrodisiac.

"Viagra only corrects physiological problems. It doesn't work for some patients with very strong psychological problems," he says.

There have been downsides to the use of the drug.

After 130 Viagra users died of heart attacks, the US Food and Drug Administration slapped a warning label on the drug, cautioning men with a history of heart problems to stay away from the medicine. The boost below the belt wasn't worth the strain on the ticker.

Early fears that the drug might cause nerve damage to the eye or directly trigger cardiac deaths have been laid to rest.

"Viagra is not only safe for the heart, but it may even be good for the heart. It is well tolerated with concomitant diseases like diabetes, coronary heart disease, hypertension or depression," says Divinagracia.

Nobel for human relations

Pfizer feels that Viagra has made its biggest contribution to marital relationships.

"Maybe in the field of human relations, Viagra should be given the Nobel Prize," says urologist Dr. Eduardo Gatchalian of the Philippine General Hospital.

"Sex is very important in marriage. Viagra is probably one of the things that can enhance that relationship," says psychiatrist Ma. Luz Casimiro-Querubin of the University of the Philippines.

She adds: "The relationship of husbands and wives through the years will change. Lovemaking, in fact, becomes difficult after several years. Wives sometimes look at it as a chore."

"The reality is that marital relationships will develop according to certain interpersonal dynamics. Sexual relation, ship moves in cadence and in accordance with how that relationship improves or suffers through the years," she said.

Promiscuity

Querubin admits that Viagra has encouraged promiscuity among older men because it has given them a new sense of virility.

"I think that is an individual choice. There's always a certain percentage of men who will use it for recreational purposes and not as intended," she says.

But Viagra is not Pfizer's biggest seller in the Philippines. It ranks only third behind hypertension drug Norvasc and cholesterol buster Lipitor largely because it is still a cultural taboo for Filipino men to come out in the open and admit to having erection problems.

"The topic of erectile dysfunction is starting to come out of the closet, but it's doing so very slowly. For Filipinos, the cultural taboo is still a big hurdle to overcome," says Pfizer associate director for business development Robert Muñoz.

A Nobel for rational choice

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

SOME of my favorite topics in cognitive psychology are experiments which reveal that humans tend to make irrational choices. Of course this is not news to educators (especially math teachers), but such mistakes often have ill repercussions in real life, such as in politics and economics.

It is but fitting then that last year's Nobel Prize for Economics went to Daniel Kahneman, a professor of psychology at Princeton University. Kahneman, with his colleague Amos Tversky (who died in 1996), had spent his career designing such remarkable experiments. (The Nobel committee had cited Tversky, but awards are not given posthumously.)

Here is one of their typical scenarios, which come to think of it, resonates in this SARS era:

Imagine that the United States is preparing for the outbreak of an unusual disease that is expected to kill 600 people. Two programs to fight the disease have been proposed. Assume that the exact consequences are as follows:

If Program A is adopted, 200 people will surely be saved.

If Program B is adopted, there is a one-third chance that 600 will be saved and a two-thirds chance that no one will be saved.

Which of the two programs would you favor?

When Tversky and Kahneman ran this experiment in 1980, around 72 percent of their subjects were risk-averse and chose the first option. How about you?

Not consistent

The researchers gave another set of subjects the following set of questions:

Consider the same situation as above. Which of the two programs below would you favor?

If Program C is adopted, 400 people will certainly die.

If Program D is adopted there is a 1/3 chance that no one will die and a 2/3 chance that all 600 people will die.

Here the preferences were reversed: 22 percent favored Program C. (How about you?)

It seems that not only are people not rational, they are not even consistent in their attitudes toward risk.

Mathematically, of course, in the long run, all four choices are equivalent.

To get the expected value of something, just multiply the "gain" or "loss" by the probability of attaining one or having to pay for the other. For Program B, the expected number of people to be saved is 1/3 multiplied by 600 + 2/3 multiplied by 0, which is 200 (the same number as in Program A). Now do a similar calculation for Program D (and compare it with Program C).

Irrational behavior

A whole slew of theory and experiment burgeoned around Tversky and Kahneman's work, which has affected economics immensely.

According to the New York Times, "The standard theory of choice propounded by economists assumes that individuals make decisions systematically, based on their preferences and available information, in a way that changes little with time or context. Yet by the early 1980s, Kahneman and Tversky had begun to perform experiments with human subjects to suggest seemingly irrational wrinkles in behavior."

Here is another of their experiments. Lottery aficionados, pay attention! Which one would you choose?

Choice A: a sure gain of P75

Choice B: a lottery in which there is a 75-percent chance of winning P100 and a 25-percent chance of winning nothing at all.

Did you choose A? What about these?

Choice C: a sure loss of P75

Choice D: a lottery in which there is a 75-percent chance you will lose P100 and a 25-percent chance of not losing anything.

Did you choose D? By now though, you may probably agree that in the long run, the expected values of A and B are the same. Ditto with C and D.

By the way, the other recipient of the 2002 Nobel for Economics was Vernon Smith, a professor of economics and law at George Mason University, for his laboratory techniques focusing on bargaining and auctions, which affect economic decision-making. Kahneman and Smith shared the cash prize of approximately P1.07 million before taxes.

(Contact the author at blessbook@yahoo.com.)

Illegal practices threaten dermatological industry

"AIDA" (not her real name), from a province in the south, is one of thousands of Filipinos who rely on cosmetic surgery to "maintain" her physical looks—an obsession, which unfortunately, led to her death. She went to her dermatologist—whom she thought was a legitimate specialist—for a routine face peel, but instead of getting the desired effects, the procedure led to angioedema, from which she never recovered and died.

Her family chose to close her coffin because the corpse's face was very bloated. Instead of reporting the case or answering people's queries, they timidly sealed her case—which isn't the first time a botched operation led to death. It would be very embarrassing to know someone died from trying to look sexier, or younger, which was what happened to Aida.

Threat

An alarming trend of illegal dermatology practices is recently threatening the industry, leaving clueless patients injured and emotionally scathed, the legitimate doctors helpless, while more and more unscrupulous individuals are joining the bandwagon toward the trivialization and commercialization of a supposedly medically related service.

Not every clinic in town that offers a facial, liposuction, bust lift, or other cosmetic procedures has the license to carry out these tasks. But not every Filipino knows this. In fact, experts from the Philippine Society of Cutaneous Medicine (PSCM) have pointed out that patients are mostly too gullible to get convinced by "pseudo-dermas" to get their services for a cheaper price, but unknown to them, for much higher risks.

Fake dermas

The cases that have been reported from the botched operations have been overwhelming. Case after case of malpractices leading to disfigurement, injury and even death have been reported but not documented, because of the psychosocial factors involved.

"Patients assume that legitimate dermatologists are expensive, when in fact, they end up spending more on fake dermas. In the end, they go back to us for solutions of the complications of original problem," lamented Dr. Evangeline Handog, president of the PSCM.

Other cases involve patients having second degree burns on the face from "skin peeling" undertaken by nondermas; a patient with infectious eczematoid dermatitis from wrong "creams;" a patient ending up with "severe drug reactions" after being given antifungal, antibiotics and antiviral tablets all at the same time by unqualified dermas; and a patient who almost lost all his hair due to severe contact dermatitis on the scalp and face as a result of perming done in a parlor.

War waged

The PSCM is preparing to wage war against illegal dermatologists and other individuals who are working in the guise of providing dermatologic procedures even without a valid license or an accreditation from the Philippine Medical Association. Dermatology is the science that deals with the diagnosis, treatment and research of conditions pertaining to the skin, nails and mucous membranes. Unfortunately, cosmeticians and other pseudo-dermas have made the science into a commercial service, and degraded procedures into easy, routine, cheap services.

Two dermatological societies in the country are accredited by the Philippine Medical Association. These are the PSCM, which is on its 30th year, and the Philippine Dermatological Society, which recently marked its golden year. Dermatologists who are nonmembers should be questioned on their practices. Likewise, those pretending to be members of either group should be sanctioned and penalized.

Training

The PSCM currently has more than 200 members while the PDS has about 350. Both adhere to very strict requirements for membership. The PSCM has five accredited dermatology residency training programs and institutions, namely the Davao Medical Center, East Avenue Medical Center, Jose R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center, Ospital Ng Maynila Medical Center, and Research Institute for Tropical Medicine. The PDS accredited institutions and hospitals are UP-PGH, University of Santo Tomas, Skin and Cancer Foundation, UE-Ramon Magsaysay Medical Center and the Makati Medical Center.

Beating the blues and stress

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MEDICAL FILES

THESE are times when stress literally pours, what with all the unfortunate news and developments we're getting. Add to this the regular dose of stress we get from work and we're likely to end up an emotional wreck, feeling wretchedly blue at this megadose of stress.

If stress is wearing you down and making your anxiety and panic attacks a little more frequent, put down that pen and shut down that laptop. Spend the weekend in a tranquil place with just you and your spouse. Taking the whole family along with the in-laws and your pet dog can just add to your stress and defeat your purpose taking a break from it all.

A single relaxing weekend can go a long way in changing the way you cope with stress and anxiety.

Serious problem

How significant are stress-related anxiety or panic attacks?

Dr. Willie Ong, a consultant at the Manila Doctors' Hospital, believes it's getting to be a more serious problem, due not only to work-related stress, but also to all the bad news we've been getting the past few months.

There seems to be no letup in bad news: stock prices plummeting, unabated crime and terrorist activities, the Iraq crisis, and SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome). SARS has not only caused anxiety, many are overreacting to it and getting paranoid.

Stress is good up to a certain point because it allows the body to brace itself for work and defense. It provides the necessary adrenaline to fuel that much-needed energy.

Beyond a certain point, however, stress becomes distress. Anxiety attacks incapacitate. The person experiencing an attack has intense feelings of fear, agitation and nervousness. He or she can have all sorts of complaints from chest pain, headache and stomach cramps to a feeling of unreality. Some even stay at home for months because of unexplained fear.

Types of disorders

Dr. Ong cites a few examples of anxiety and stress-induced disorders:

- **Panic attacks.** Sudden episodes of overwhelming anxiety and fear.
- **Agoraphobia.** An intense fear of being out alone which leads to avoiding places such as cinemas or supermarkets.

NO!
RUSH
RUSH
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ASAP

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

- **Posttraumatic stress disorder.** Caused by a distressing event, like 9/11, that results in symptoms of reliving the trauma and a numbing of response to the outside world.
- **Obsessive-compulsive symptoms.** Repetitive and intrusive odd thoughts and fears, and at times ritualistic behaviors like excessive checking of locks or repeated hand washing.
- **Excessive social anxiety.** A lifelong fear of being observed in public situations like eating or speaking.
- **Generalized anxiety disorder.** Persistent worries over one's health or welfare or that of his family members.

Treatment

Overcoming stress and treating anxiety attacks are not going to be achieved overnight. But taking that much-needed vacation can be a good first step to teach your body how it feels to be relaxed.

As you lie on that beach towel, reading your favorite book and sipping that glass of cool lemonade, tell yourself over and over again that that is the kind of mental and emotional state you want to be in. Capture that image in your mind, and always picture yourself in that state when you're back in the urban jungle and unhealthy stress starts to creep in again.

Long-term control of anxiety requires medical guidance and family support. A supportive doctor is also a must. Busy doctors who can't spare a few minutes to listen to your complaints may not be of much help. Medical disorders that can present similarly to an anxiety disorder, such as an overactive thyroid, mitral valve prolapse and heart rhythm abnormalities, have to be ruled out.

Dr. Ong emphasizes that certain foods, like excessive intake of coffee, tea, colas and other caffeine-containing foods, are notorious in aggravating anxiety. Illicit drugs (shabu, cocaine and marijuana) and some prescription drugs (weight-reducing pills, ephedrine, antiasthmatic drugs and decongestants) can be responsible for these anxiety symptoms.

Psychological counseling and medications play important roles in treating anxiety attacks.

"Sometimes, counseling alone, by a psychiatrist or counselor, may be enough, but more serious cases need medical treatment. Thoughts of suicide, hearing of voices, severe depression or violent behavior all warrant urgent treatment by a psychiatrist," says Dr. Ong.

Family support

But the most effective treatment is still the old-fashioned family support.

"The assurance and comfort brought about by a spouse, a family member or a friend help calm the anxious individual," explains Dr. Ong.

A doctor's assurance coupled with normal laboratory tests will also convince most patients that they are safe and secure.

When a person feels an imminent attack coming, it helps to do some deep slow breathing. Recall that picture of yourself in a most relaxed state during your holiday. Talk to yourself and just let the fear come and pass harmlessly by. Having a sedative nearby, without necessarily taking it, can also act as a security blanket.

Don't feel you're isolated in your problem. You're in good company. Many important people initially suffered from and have subsequently overcome these anxiety disorders.

Actress Kim Basinger fought her panic attacks, continued her acting, and even won an Oscar best supporting actress award for "L.A. Confidential."

Most cases of anxiety episodes are transient, mild and can be cured with stress reduction strategies. These include bringing out and resolving personal conflicts, postponing major life changes, joining a religious support group and allotting time for leisure and rest.

ASK THE DENTIST
Paul R. De Castro, DMD

Cancer of the mouth

MY husband had this wound in his mouth that never healed. When he came back from the doctor after several tests, he was told that it was oral cancer. Where did my husband get that?

Kris C.

Usually, oral cancer comes from trauma or tobacco or alcohol abuse. Sometimes a combination of alcohol and tobacco in excess can give a person oral cancer.

Cancer subjects usually smoke a pack of cigarettes and/or consume six alcoholic drinks per day. These habits through time have a very detrimental effect on our bodies that's why moderation is very important.

(The author is a general and cosmetic dentist licensed here and in the United States. E-mail your at dentalqs@yahoo.com.)

Helping kids catch up with growth

CHILDREN have eating habits that change as they grow up. They are exposed to more choices of food, which could spell an unhealthy diet of potato chips, sugar drinks and so on.

Experts say it is not harmful for parents to let their toddlers choose the food they would like to eat. However, it is likely that some of their choices will not provide them the necessary nutrients and calories their growing bodies need.

Children aged 1 to 6 years need about 1,000 calories while those aged 6 to 10 require 1,300 calories. When children skip healthy meals, they end up losing weight and height way below their normal age. This is what we call stunted growth or growth faltering. Most of the time, stunted growth creates confusion among parents and low self-esteem for the kids since their peers are in their "normal" growth range.

But that's not the only downside of stunted growth. Growth faltering results from lack of nutrients to support energy requirements of hyperactive children, loss of appetite or skipping meals, and illness. When children eat less than what their body requires, growing up slows down. As a parent, this pitfall shouldn't let that hold you back. There is now a very effective way to catch up for children suffering from slowed growth.

Children need "healthy" calories for faster catch-up growth results. Pediatricians recommend PediaSure, a complete balanced nutritional formula, especially formulated for children aged 1 to 10 years. PediaSure helps support growth, enhance immunity and provide the essential nutrients for proper growth and development. It has the highest caloric density—30 percent kcal per fluid ounce—which delivers faster weight gain in a shorter time compared to other formulas.

PediaSure is the only one clinically proven to promote catch-up growth. It comes in delicious vanilla and chocolate flavors, and can be used as meal replacement or nutritional supplement just by drinking two glasses a day. With PediaSure, catch-up growth can be achieved in just eight weeks.

BIR finds rampant tax violations in Cubao

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue yesterday found a number of big establishments in Cubao, Quezon City—including Puyat Sports, Citibed, Isetann Department Store, Mercury Drug and Tambunting Pawnshop—violating the rule on the issuance of official receipts and registration of cash registers.

During a tax mapping drive led by Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho yesterday at the Araneta Center in Cubao, Quezon City, these establishments were found using cash registers and point-of-sales machines that were not registered with the bureau.

With Camacho during yesterday's tax mapping drive were BIR Commissioner Guillermo Parayno Jr. and some of the 250 BIR personnel designated to undertake the drive throughout Metro Manila.

According to Danilo Duncano, BIR Quezon City regional director, all 37 cash registers of Isetann were found unregistered with the BIR. The team also found five unregistered cash registers in Mercury Drug.

The non-registration of cash registers and point-of-sales machines entails a fine of P25,000 per machine for the first offense; P50,000 per machine for the second offense and closure of the establishment for third offense, said the BIR.

Albert Idquival, branch manager of Puyat Sports, said that Puyat Sports' cash registers were BIR-registered but that the registration notices, that should be attached on the machines, were lost. He added, though, that the store was willing to settle the penalty imposed by the BIR.

Lenny Rivera, counter clerk for Tambunting, denied that the store had violated a BIR rule saying that the machine checked by the BIR was not a cash register, and was, therefore, not subject to the registration requirement.

She said the store was recording its sales manually and that the records were submitted to the main office, which was recording the data electronically.

Camacho advised owners of these establishments to speed up the settlement of their delinquencies so as not to disrupt their operations. He said he had instructed the BIR to hasten the processing of their cases.

Since the launch of the tax mapping program, over 90 percent of the estimated 11,000 establishments visited were found to have violated BIR rules. The most common violations are non-issuance of receipts, non-registration of cash registers and non-registration of businesses.

CAMACHO (right) and BIR director Danilo Duncanao(left) during yesterday's tax mapping drive in Cubao. JOAN BONDOC

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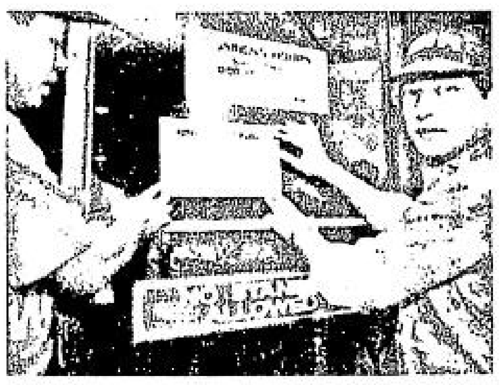

CAMACHO (right) and BIR director Danilo Duncanao(left) during yesterday's tax mapping drive in Cubao. JOAN BONDOC

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E-mail: pr_elan@inquirer.com.ph
pdi_elan@inquirer.com.ph

Power: energy with a purpose

By Marge C. Enriquez

"WHAT are we in power for?"

That's an oft-repeated line from politicians, managers and even media practitioners.

Authentic power is not acquired from position or pay. Dictators may appear to wield power, but does anyone really love or respect them? Companies may seem to have financial muscle but this power is based on arrogance and greed–feeble forces that guarantee their own ruin.

The paradox is that true power is earned, not demanded. As the adage goes, "Give and you shall receive." It starts with imbuing our relationships with trust and respect, accepting the others for who they are. In the corporate context, this means entrusting them with the responsibility and chance to be in command. In return, this generates loyalty and commitment. These two values are priceless. When they are "bought," there is lack of integrity on both sides, which results in a weak, powerless relationship.

Loyalty, commitment, trust and respect compose true power, lest we forget. Power is energy with a purpose. In relationships, its potent use will depend on how we encourage ourselves and inspire others. We all seek to have power, but we can only get it when we give it away.

Power, in the form of motivation or pushing oneself to the limits, came to my mind after our photo shoots with female national athletes and gymnasts last Tuesday. The whole team was challenged–from the editorial assistants booking the venues and the subjects, to the photographer who was to capture moving images, to the designer making clothes for a sports he was unfamiliar with, to the models-slash-athletes who were certainly not used to working out with false nails.

Fantasy shoot

For too long, lensman **Jun de Leon** had fantasized about photographing a woman in a flowing dress doing some pole vaults and a female gymnast balancing in the rings–a feat that's only done in men's gymnastics.

Organizing the shoot at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex required a lot of patience, what with delays, miscommunication and inconveniences along the way. However, the whole team was determined to get everything done and on schedule.

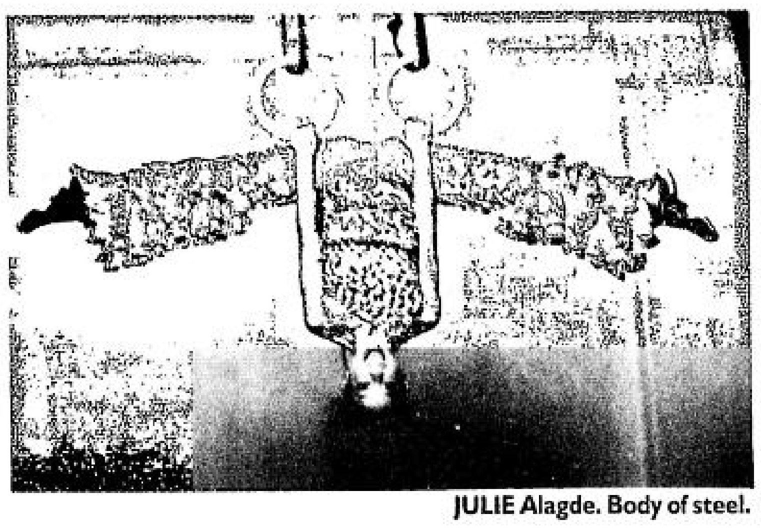
Truth to tell, De Leon, whose name is synonymous with glamour photography, used to think that female athletes all looked like men in drag. PDI sportswriters proved something to the contrary by recommending **Lerma Bulauitan-Gabito** and **Marestella Torres** who, it turned out, were some whistlebaits indeed. Both have great cheekbones and could easily win any bikini contest. Their slender waistlines were complemented by buttocks as round and firm as summer cantaloupes. They got their fab abs, not from conventional sit-ups, but from daily jumps and hurdles.

Somewhat, it's we get only when we give away

Bemedalled track star Gabito is the most seasoned athlete, having joined the Sydney Olympics 2000. Although she only made it to the first round, she broke her "personal best" during the games. Torres, whose forte is long jump, gamely did the pole vault for this pictorial. By the way, she bagged two gold medals in the recent Milo National Open Track and Field Championships.

Former national rhythmic gymnastics champion **Julie Alagde** amazed the team with her strength. The pint-sized Alagde, she with the 4 percent body fat (make that 6 percent in her thighs), did men's pullover in the rings! Her colleague **Lizette Duco** flipped through the uneven parallel bars, executing The Giant.

Élan tapped **Eddie Baddeo**, known for his tongue-in-cheek approach, to create the collection. We marveled at hair and makeup artist **Eric Maningat's** accessories and long, neon-colored lashes from James Cooper Salon, which sells them to drag queens.


JULIE Alagde. Body of steel.

Precious insight

We challenged **Harriet Ann Dy** to write about Kamiseta clothing company's new tack even if she now lives on the other side of the world. The former fashion editor of Metro Magazine has migrated to Canada and works in a retail chain. Her experience has given her precious insight into fashion reportage. For Élan, Dy has conducted interviews with Freeway, Kamiseta and Bench (which will come out in a future issue). Though posed via e-mail, Dy's incisive questions impressed our sources.

Even so, due to the competition and certain peculiarities in the fashion industry, manufacturers tend to be safe with their answers. For instance, Kamiseta explained that since its styles were often copied by others, they had to refrain from giving forecasts. Dy also wanted the malls to cite who were the topselling stores. But the retailers said, even as tenants they were not privy to this information.

We teased Dy that real journalists used their powers of intuition and deduction. Because they could see the big picture, we said, journalists know that they need only ask for verification. In other words, questions answerable by "yes" or "no."

Her story, in the end, was less about Hollywood actress Natalie Portman of "Star Wars" becoming the new Kamiseta image model, than about how well this local brand was doing in hard times.

Well, the Force is certainly with them.

WHAT'S INSIDE

C3

C4

C7

BVLGARI

diagono

manila - 6750 ayala center - makati   rustan's department store

Haven for the working rich

By Teddy Y. Montelibano
Contributor
(Fourth of six parts)

"IT WAS as if I broke through a glass ceiling," says Edith Yotoko Villanueva, describing how her adopted province, Negros Occidental, elected her to Congress during the 1998 elections and, previous to that, to the provincial board for two consecutive terms.

Villanueva's 1998 victory is significant for various reasons, not the least of which was that she was the first woman to be voted to the House by the province's third district. She scored 7,000 votes against the wife of then incumbent Congressman Jose Carlos Lacson, the former Cecile Oca, a Manileña like herself. Lacson had been fielded because her husband could no longer run, having held the post for three terms in a row.

Likewise, Villanueva proved that in Negros Occidental, politics could be played "clean," and elections won without spending inordinately big amounts of money. By her own estimates, her campaign expenses did not exceed P3 million.

Similarly, both her previous successful political forays–initially in 1992, when she became the first woman to be elected provincial board member, and again in 1995, when she was reelected for another three-year term in the same position–were each won with a P200,000 kitty. "By winning without money, I mean the only funds I had were for my campaign strategists, my core campaign group, and support groups," Villanueva explained. "I definitely didn't have money to buy votes with."

Villanueva sees these victories as an affirmation of her acceptance by the province she adopted when she married sugar planter Jose Ma. "Joe" Abad Villanueva in 1970.

Edith Villanueva was born and raised in Manila, although both her parents hail from Capiz, Roxas City, Panay island. The whole family speaks fluent Ilonggo, which is also the native tongue in Negros Occidental. A sister of Villanueva's is children's book writer Marla Y. Chorengel.

While her clan had been steeped in politics–her mother was the daughter of a Capiz governor–a career in it was the last thing on Villanueva's mind when she graduated from Maryknoll (now Miriam) College in 1970.

"My family never discussed politics at home," Villanueva says. "Never in my dad's wildest dreams did he see me getting into politics." She thought that was "it" for her after she ran and was elected vice-president of the student council in college (this while she was editor of Chi Rho, the college organ).

'Irrelevant' life

In 1970, she graduated from Maryknoll with a degree in mass communications and, posthaste, wed her boyfriend, Joe Villanueva. The new Mrs. Villanueva landed a job in advertising while her husband worked for a year with San Miguel Corporation. Two years later, in 1972, the couple left Manila for Bacolod, capital city of Negros Occidental, since Joe had to take care of the family's farm in the province.

Life in affluent Negros during the 1970s was good. Edith Villanueva, by her own account, lived a "bohemian" life. She describes her life in Negros during those years, as "irrelevant" life: "I was a beach bum; every summer, my friends and I would go from one beachhouse to another from here in Negros all the way to Tali, in Batangas. My friends and I also played pelota (then a popular sport among Negros' elite) and we would fly to Manila to join tournaments."

This period of social irrelevance, those halcyon days when Villanueva lived the life of a sugar planter's wife to the hilt, lasted a long time–1972 to 1986–as the country was squeezed tight, and then tighter, in the grip of the dictator Ferdinand E. Marcos. It was not until after Marcos' staunchest foe, former Senator Benigno Aquino Jr, was assassinated that the country's economy, and that of Negros, began sliding to precarious depths.

"My irrelevance began to bother me," recalls Villanueva, "so I decided I couldn't just stay put. I took to the streets and marched against Marcos."

Negros Occidental's monocrop economy started to take a really steep fall in 1984. Finally, in 1986–at about the same time that Sen. Aquino's widow declared her intentions to take on the dictator–Edith Villanueva exchanged her pristine pelota whites for denim jeans, rolled up her sleeves and plunged into an occupation that would change her life forever.

Edith Villanueva is a public servant worthy of emulation by her adopted province

She and her friends in the province organized a movement to support Cory Aquino's bid for the presidency. When Mrs. Aquino won, Villanueva put further substance and relevance into her life via HOPE (Humanity, Opportunity, Productivity, Education) Volunteers Foundation--a non-government organization (NGO) group she founded along with other dedicated volunteers, including La Salle College president Brother Rolando Dizon, and sugarland owners Cynthia Bantug Regino and Eduardo "Dading" Ledesma.

Like Villanueva, these volunteers stepped out of cushy comfort zones and transformed whatever guilt they might have over having so much amidst a sea of poverty and social strife, into activities that ranged from feeding programs to livelihood and credit assistance, and involvement in the preparation of medium-term development plans for the province.

Operation Smile

In 1987, Villanueva was introduced to Operation Smile (OS), a United States-based private volunteer medical services group which sends reconstructive surgery and related health care specialists around the world, including Negros Occidental, to fix children's cleft lips and palates.

US plastic surgeon Bill Magee, OS founder, and his nurse wife Kathleen first went to Negros during a mission in 1981. In 1987, a Protestant pastor approached by OS to help a mission from the US going to Negros the following year sought Villanueva's HOPE for assistance.

"Originally, I was only supposed to field HOPE volunteers to assist in the OS mission," Villanueva related. "When the mission arrived, the pastor told me he had to leave for abroad, so the entire thing fell on my lap–patient recruitment, logistics, everything!"

Villanueva mobilized her friends, many of whom were her former pelota mates, and tapped Negros' elite. They came out in droves for the OS mission that year, 1988, and in the years that followed.

"One important thing that I've learned about Negrenses in all the years that I've lived here is that they are very generous, sometimes to a fault," she said. "We've had OS in Negros for quite some time now and all these rich women would come out of their environs to share money, time, even their household help, and prepare food for the medical team and the children."

In 1992, Villanueva joined the OS board of directors and a few years later, in 2000, she was appointed President of OS, Philippines. She enthuses, "It's pure volunteer, charity work!" Since its inception in 1982, OS has performed reconstructive surgery on 13,000 indigent children and young adults in 20 developing countries and within the US. Very recently this year, 117 Filipino medical specialists went out in three teams to perform, for free, reconstructive surgery on over 500 children with cleft lips and palates in the cities of Naga, Davao and Cebu. Villanueva and OS founder Magee went with the medical teams to these places.

As if her OS responsibilities were not enough, Villanueva is also president of ACCORD Negros, a network of over active 30 based NGOs in Negros Occidental and president of the Sugar Industry Foundation Inc. (SIFI), a national organization made up of the various sugar federations in the country. SIFI is the sugar industry's social development arm and the use of its resources is focused on assisting workers in their educational, livelihood, health and shelter needs. That Villanueva was elected to head this male-dominated organization–gain, the first woman to be so honored since SIFI's birth in 1971–is, indeed some feather in her cap.

Villanueva gunned for her second Congressional term in the 2001 polls. This time her opponent was a politically resurrected Jose Carlos Lacson who beat her by a puny 570 votes. It was a battle well fought, though, and the thought that she might have been cheated out of a second term by her rival crossed not a few people's minds. Still, Villanueva did what might be regarded as most unlikely in the context of contemporary Philippine politics: she immediately congratulated her foe and wished him well. "People were aghast," she recalls. "Many asked what had happened to me, why did I give up so quickly? But can you imagine if I contested the count? We would be fighting until now."

Not someone to lick her wounds, Villanueva went on with her life. It was a year after these elections that sugar industry leaders placed her at the helm of SIFI. Her personal contributions to the foundation's exemplary list of programs are a jobs referral system for its scholars, vocational or technical education grants for high-school graduates with no resources for college studies, and mass housing.

Picture of calm

Looking at Villanueva as we share a large steaming bowl of nutritious *laswa*–a soup of mixed vegetables in hot broth as delicious as only Negrense cooks can make it–one can only marvel at the veneer of equanimity she projects, belying a life that is a virtual maelstrom of activity. She has just arrived from meetings in Manila.

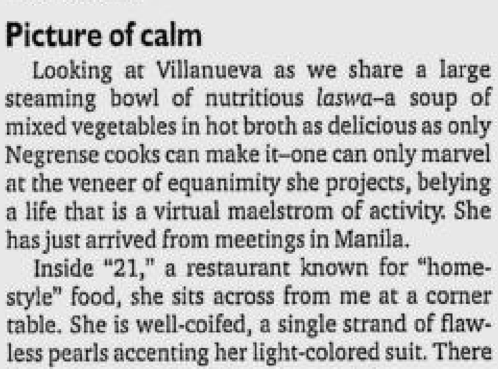
Inside "21," a restaurant known for "home-style" food, she sits across from me at a corner table. She is well-coifed, a single strand of flawless pearls accenting her light-colored suit. There is a no-nonsense air about her, and for someone whose work requires travel in and out of the country and long periods of time away from husband and three children, she is the picture of calm, composed glamour.

"I have to put his picture under my pillow so I won't miss him so much," Villanueva says when asked whether or not Joe, her husband of 30 years, minds the frequent separations. "I spend three days in Manila then I come home to Bacolod. After three, four days, I go back to Manila. In between these domestic travels, I even go abroad. But Joe is very supportive of my activities."

Joe's role in his wife's multi-layered life is essential. For instance, he raised the resources for all of his wife's political campaigns. "But he never interfered with my political work afterwards," she says. "Joe is a private, simple, down-to-earth man who will help you in everything as long as you do not impose on him."

The understanding and supportive husband, and having Negros Occidental to come home to, balance out Villanueva's terribly fast-paced life of public service. "Ah," she says in apparent delight, "Negros is my haven!"

It seems Edith Villanueva was present, and mindful, on the day that God decided to shower His children with character, inexhaustible energy, and good fortune.



WITH husband Jose Ma. (Joe) Abad Villanueva

MARIO'S............ THROUGH THE YEARS............

After 31 years of impeccable service and exquisite selection of continental cuisine, the ***Mario's Group of Restaurants*** has become a classic gastronomic experience in fine dining. It still remains true to its proud tradition, with a versatility to suit the lifestyle of the ever-changing, discriminating palate.

The first Mario's was opened in ***Baguio City***, origins of the legendary ***Mario's Caesar Salad***. This quaint restaurant rose to popularity and especially lured visiting Manilans where dining at Mario's was a "must" during their stay at the summer capital. Mario's Baguio, now located at the Upper Session Road, looks like the typical Baguio country home and is painted green and white in memory of the cottages of the old John Hay. One of its attractions is an open veranda where diners can view South Drive while enjoying the fare.

Over the years, the Mario's menu have expanded to include an exciting array of appetizers, steaks, seafood dishes, pastas, salads, and freshly-baked breads, cakes and pastries from the chain's very own bakery. And in meeting the demand for its exclusive and customized services for almost all types of business, private, and social functions, Mario's also offers its ***Catering Services*** to suit their clients' workable budgets and can easily accommodate from 10 to 1,000 persons.

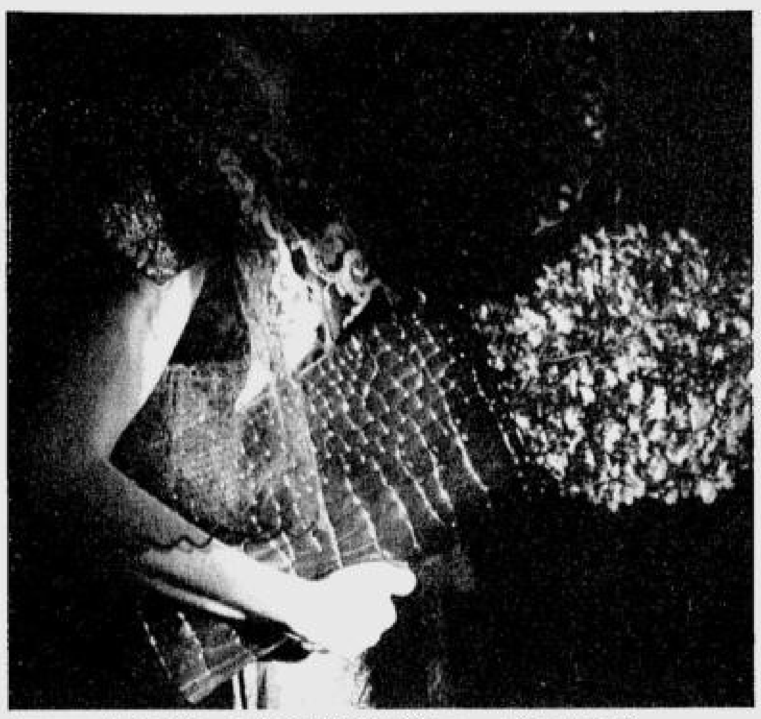
Mario's Quezon City along ***Tomas Morato Avenue*** remains to be one of the best dining establishments in that part of the City. This branch is still considered the favorite dining place of nearby residential clients, government people and showbusiness clientele. The privacy and comfort of the function rooms are also some of the several reasons why it is popular among its guests.

Mario's Ortigas unlocked its doors to its valued patrons in ***January 2003*** after it closed for sometime to give way to a key renovation. It reopened with a different guise. The interiors are now painted in subtle hues and the furniture and design evoke a contemporary spirit in a friendly but more intimate setting. And notwithstanding the all - time favorites, Mario's old and new habitues are treated to an array of innovative culinary delights. One such favorite, among the many, is the ***Salpicado Asiatico,*** the Asian version of their famous Salpicado, with exotic spices and cilantro rice. ***Mario's Ortigas*** also has newly - renovated function rooms complete with available business amenities and tailor - menus which are enhanced with personalized service in a comfortable dining setting.

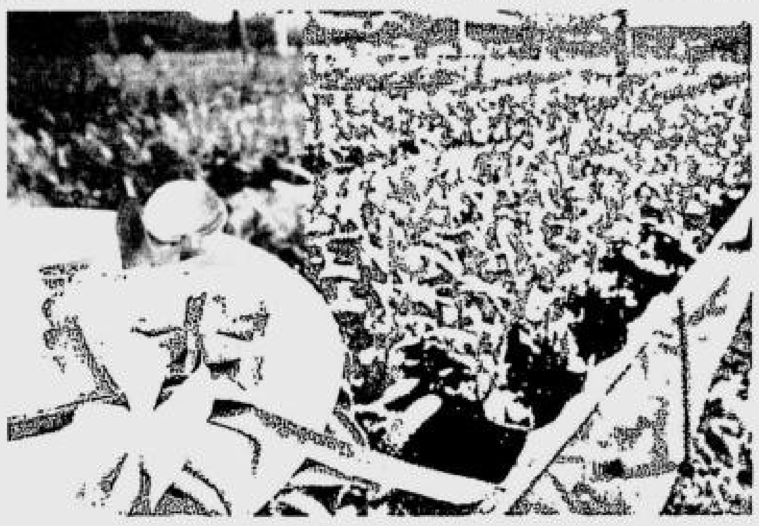
Some years ago, Mario's developed a concept that revolutionized its vision in dining experience. Thus, the creation of ***Mario's Kitchen*** in ***2001***, a casual dining restaurant to make way for a new generation of patrons. The name Kitchen was added for purposes of flexibility, creativity, and new ideas in food concepts that it introduces and develops. Mario's Kitchen serves appetizers, salads, pastas, sandwiches and rice meals. It also includes Mario's old hats like ***Callos***, ***Salpicado,*** and ***Arroz ala Cubana***. ***Paellita***, the petite version of ***Paella Valenciana***, is one of the most popular in the menu. ***Mario's Kitchen*** branches are located at ***Robinson's Galleria*** in ***Mandaluyong*** and ***Robinson's Place*** in ***Ermita.***

Indeed, after 31 successful years and more to come, the ***Mario's Group of Restaurants*** will remain a remarkable bastion in dining experience.

ADVT.

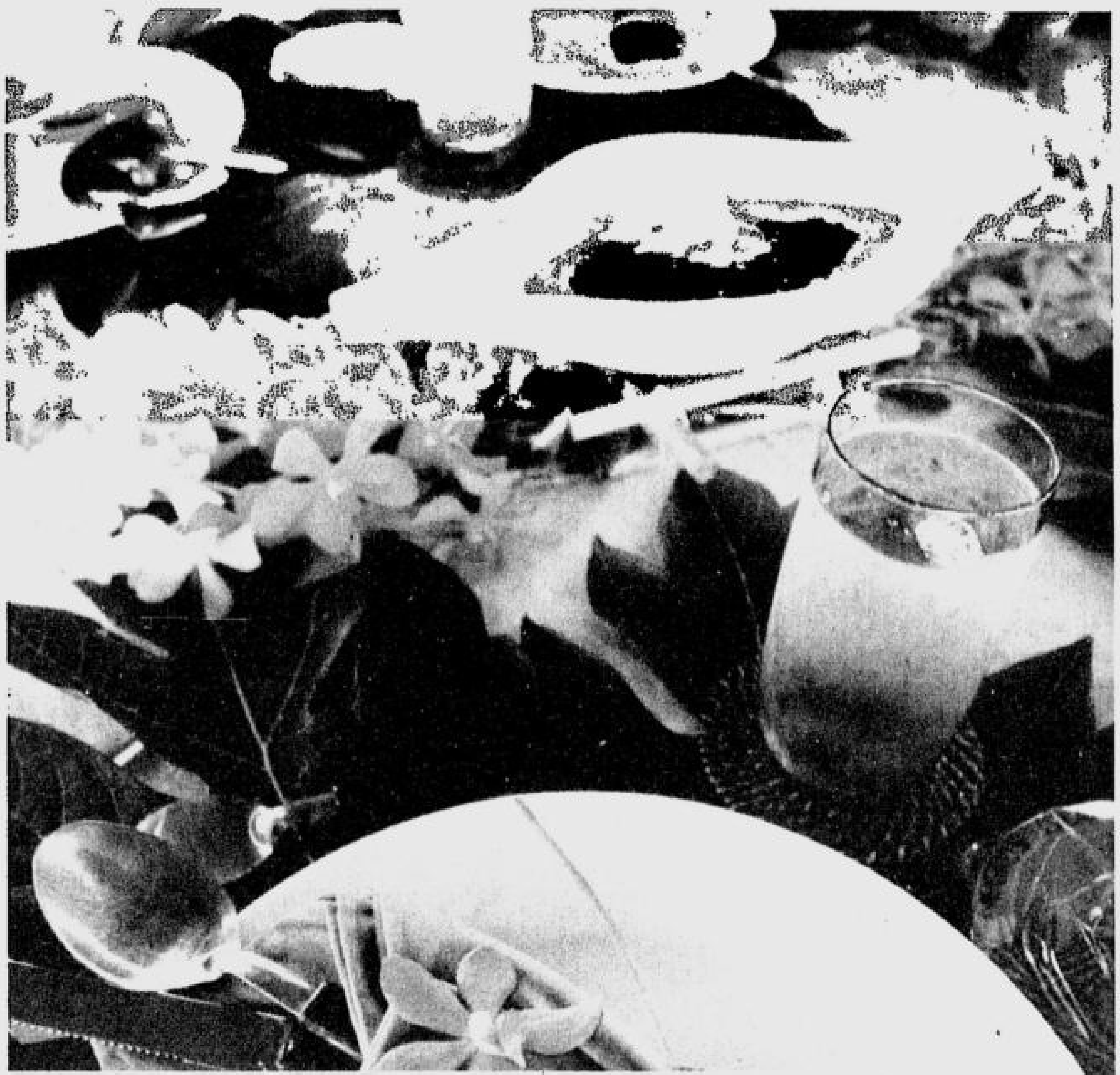


DOLOMITE flower vase inspired by the crocodile bag design.



SWEET Greens specializes in vandas.

DOLOMITE clay urn is a hot item.



Sweet Greens are made of these

How success blossomed, literally, for Millie Kilayko and Tima Lacson

By Adrian V. Lizares • Photos by Chito Vecina • Pictorial direction by Albert Avellana

THE CRISIS years of the 1980s led Negros island into a period of self- realization. For the most part of the decade, sugar prices were at an all-time low. Dependency on a mono-crop economy caused many fortunes to crumble. The region's flamboyant mood slid into one of introspection and social reassessment.

For more than a century prior to this, the cultivation of sugar had made life heaven for its producers and planters. Accounts of their lifestyles were the stuff that legends were made of.

During the difficult years, Negrenses turned to different ways of making a living. "Diversify!" became the battlecry of then Gov. Daniel "Bitay" Lacson. His efforts to broaden his constituents' horizons gave way to alternative agricultural products.

Hope literally blossomed.

Lacson's wife Tima and their good friend Millie Kilayko, were quick to react to his exhortations. They ventured into the cut-flower business. Both being orchid lovers, the two women's choice of crop was easily decided: vanda varieties, which they were already growing in their backyards. They studied the market seriously and discovered that there, indeed, was a demand for such flowers, both here and abroad.

When Millie inherited property from her grandmother, she lost no time in inviting the Lacsons to be her partners. Their aims were simple and practical: to wean themselves from sugar production, and give employment to more people by branching out. Were they to run a sugar farm on the land where they meant to grow the orchids, they would need three helpers. An orchid farm in the same size of land required ten times more than that, in the very least. (Eventually, on certain occasions, they would ask more than a hundred people to help out.)

Today, 13 years later, their orchid farm, Sweet Greens Co., has attracted garden enthusiasts as well, and those who source cut-flowers and plants. These clients are from neighboring towns and other parts of the island. But lately, plant buyers have been coming from nearby Panay Island, and many more from farther than Surigao province. Most of the end-users are based in local markets. Realizing this, Millie and Tima branched out to mini-garden centers in malls around Iloilo and Cebu.

With certainty, Millie declares, "Plants and flowers definitely make any place a prettier sight." Currently, the partners are collecting Philippine plants common three generations ago. So far they have completed an entire collection of mussaenda (the donyas), ixoras (santan), the oleanders (adelfas), and both the centennial and millennium series of hibiscus from the UPLB Institute for Plant Breeding.

They recently acquired a ceramic and pottery factory to complete the look of their "garden" stores. Their ceramic pieces were the focus of a showcase they prepared for the Milan Trade Fair.

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On being 'cultured'

By Leovino Ma. Garcia
Contributor

It is not to be set apart from others. It is to be connected, bound to other people, in the solidarity of what is human

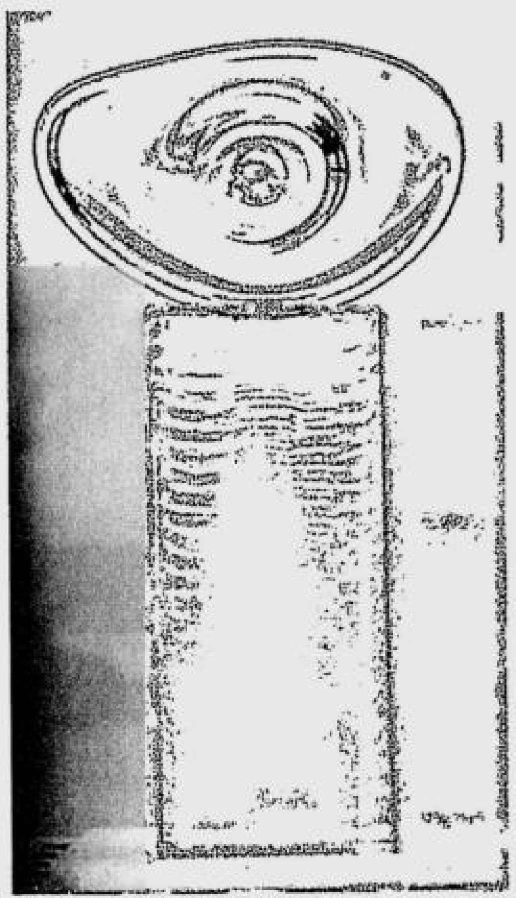
THERE is a French saying that goes, "Culture is like marmalade (*confiture*); the less one has of it, the more one flaunts it."

Those for whom this must have been written would be the hardest to convince that culture, art, philosophy–the "humanities"–are essential to being human. All these so-called "luxuries" are as basic to life as the air one breathes, the food and drink by which one is nourished, and the house that one dwells in.

As we have been reminded time and again, man does not live by bread alone. They also seek meaning–literally, direction, sense. Beyond need, this is what human beings desire. To quote the eminent philosopher Paul Ricoeur: "[W]hat [we] lack the most is indeed justice, certainly love but above all else, meaning: the meaninglessness of work, the meaninglessness of leisure, the meaninglessness of sexuality–these are the problems to which we awaken."

Substance of a people

Culture, taken here in the broadest sense, refers to any human experience insofar as it leaves traces. It covers human achievements on the technical, social, economic, political, intellectual, moral and artistic levels. These human achievements are expressed in the form of tools, documents, monuments, actions (rituals and liturgies), and works of art. On a more dynamic level, culture consists of concrete values that make up, to speak like Hegel, "the very substance of the life of a people." Superficially, these concrete values are manifested in customs, traditions, and institutions.


SILENCE by Impy Pilapil

To be cultured then is not to be set apart from others. It is to be connected, bound to other people in the solidarity of what is human.

Then again, what does it mean to be human? It is to be in the world, with others and for others. It is to take seriously the fact that although I am immersed in matter, I somehow transcend it. I am an incarnate spirit–a state of freedom that must joyfully consent to necessity. To be human is to be constantly aware that matter is the necessary slope of the spirit.

To be cultured is to promote this incarnate spirituality. Ideally, to care for the material is to assure the growth of the spiritual. To be concerned about the environment–perhaps like creating sidewalks, plazas, and parks–is to be interested in the world of the spirit. To fight the ravages of time by preserving the traces of the past–for instance, restoring buildings and paintings, and building archives–is to broaden the dominion of the spirit which include memory and hope.

Symbolic cultural capital

The irony, of course, is that many of us do not realize that to literally re-member the past is to open a future of many possibilities–concrete possibilities, which may be of an economic nature as well. To illustrate: culture is effectively economic if one understands that capital is not simply monetary but symbolic. Just as there is such a thing as "psychic income," there is also a "cultural capital." There may be a difference between "honor" and "honorarium" but the former is just as palpable a "value" as the latter. It is the lack of appreciation for symbolic cultural capital that has made local tourism lag sadly behind countries like France, Singapore, and even Cambodia.

Back in 1991, some friends in Europe alerted me to the availability of the 1734 Murillo-Velarde map (yes, the one with the side prints of Nicolas Bagay de la Cruz) at an auction in Frankfurt. Immediately, I mobilized a dozen fellow Ateneo alumni to raise enough money to bid for it, by pitching in P50,000 each. I got severely chided for my efforts by no less than a Jesuit–a historian at that!–who wanted to know: Why was I thinking of purchasing such a "luxury" at the time of the Pinatubo tragedy?

Subscribers to such a simplistic view would not hesitate to sell the treasures of the Vatican Museum and distribute the proceeds to the poor. Further back this same argument was used by Judas to chastise Mary Magdalene for frivolity, because she poured fragrant oils into the water with which she was preparing to cleanse the Lord's feet. This is completely missing the intimacy between the material and the spiritual.

Sense of the ephemeral

What makes us unique as human beings is a sense of the fragility of the incomparable, a sense of beauty grasped from the vulnerability of things. What makes us truly human is the illumination that envelopes us when the world reveals its "here" and "now," when time quivers in its poignancy.

To be human is to have a sense of the ephemeral–that which lasts for only a day. It is to have the acute awareness that it is "thus" here and now. Perhaps, Gerard Manley Hopkins experienced this when he asked: "To what serves mortal beauty?"

And he immediately answered: "See, it does this: keeps warm/Men's wits to the things that are."

To finally see such beauty, that one can at last die–this is what art, culture, the humanities keep reminding us. This why they remain essential to the poignant business of being human.

E-mail the author at lgarcia@ateneo.edu.

Dishing out dimsum

TERIYAKI tofu salads

By Amando Doronila

TUCKED in front of the ladies' department of Rustan's flagship store is an inconspicuous restaurant called East Café. One has to enter it through a reed curtain which, at the same time, gives the feeling that one is walking into a Japanese eating place, with a minimalist furniture arrangement.

The restaurant, operated by Rustan's probably for the purpose of providing customers a half-way house to rest tired legs while waiting for packages being gift-wrapped, claims it serves "creative Asian" cooking. I did not know what "creative" meant until I read the menu card that embraces a medley of Asian food ranging from Japanese, Thai, Vietnamese, Indonesian, Korean and Singaporean dishes.

From the menu, there was nothing exotic, except a few items not usually served by Asian restaurants. So, we settled down for, first, the sushi and sashimi–very conventional food. We, however, departed from the usual tuna of salmon sashimi, ordering instead Shime Sabah Sashimi. Imported from Japan, *sabah* is a tasty fish derived from the mackerel or sardine family. I first came to like *sabah* from other Japanese restaurants which served the fish grilled. It is a highly recommended fish for grilling, as highly as eel. In sashimi, *sabah*'s sardine-like flavor, something like tinned Spanish or Portuguese sardines in olive oil, came to the fore.

Then we had grilled teriyaki tofu salad. The presentation was eye-catching. The curbed tofu formed a circular base in the middle of which was a cone of green salad. Art form and taste combined to make the dish an appetizing starter.

PRAWNS bruschette

There were five dimsum varieties two of which were untypical–spinach and shrimp dumplings and vegetable dumplings. The dumplings were put inside green spinach wrappers. Spinach and shrimp were a good combination.

We dispensed with noodle soups, which include Thai shrimp *tom yam* and the popular, if not familiar, Vietnamese *pho* noodle soup. For the main dishes, we had spice grilled prawns bruschette and deep-fried *mahi-mahi* fritters with sweet and sour sauce. The other fish dishes were sesame baked *tilapia* and sea bass with ginger *wasabi* cream. Salmon and sea bass are inescapable in most restaurant menus.

There was nothing outstanding and memorable about the grilled prawns, strung in skewers. They could have passed for Malaysian or Singaporean spicy barbecues. *Mahi-mahi* is a popular fish in Hawaii. It has the texture of *lapu-lapu*. Our deep-fried Mahi-mahi was coated with batter, but the frying was underdone, giving the fish a pale color. But even if it was fried golden brown, the fish was not fresh enough–probably because it has to be imported.

For the last item, we had Seafood Yakisoba, a sort of Japanese noodle dish with a mixture of seafood. The noodle was neither crispy nor saucy–it tended to be dry and was *al dente*. It was also bland in the style of Italian noodle whose flavor derives from the sauce. At East, one has to experiment with what chef Emil Ankerman (a Filipino) can concoct based on his experience with Asian food courts at Rockwell, Makati.

From what we tasted and what is offered in the menu, the appetizers and the dimsum seem to be the restaurant's strength. The list of the main dishes is a catalogue of the well-known.

East does not pretend to be anything more than a place for light meals, with less than complicated dishes and a place to relax. One should not expect too much from it, but the salads and the appetizers however, do not disappoint.

(Open during store hours. Located at 3/F Rustan's Makati. For reservations, call 813-3739 loc. 246)

Welcome to Morita's world

By Meluchi A. Rivera, *Contributor*

PHOTO BY CHITO VECINA

Each part of her dining place, down to the doors, lamps and fixtures, bears the mark of her hand

FEW see the world the way Elena "Morita" Roces does. Most of us mortals would appreciate beauty only in the vastness of nature or in grand works of art and architecture; often we overlook the simple and mundane objects around us. The 80-year-old Roces, meanwhile, transforms the simple and mundane into things of beauty. Her tools–paint, tile, beads, rope–are merely perfect complements to her boundless imagination.

One need only enter Morita's, her restaurant which stands on the corner of Pioneer and Sheridan Streets in Mandaluyong, for a glimpse of Roces' handiwork. She has given the metropolis a dining place that is a feast for more than just the taste buds. Food for the soul is also on the menu, as it were, provided by Morita's passionately embellished interiors. Each part of the structure, down to the lamps and fixtures, bears the mark of her hand.

Asked to talk about her art, however, Roces becomes dismissive. "I get my materials in, then I see (what I can make). I do what I want, that's it." She of the upright bearing and gloriously long, silver hair, has no illusions about her gift. "If it comes, it comes. No explanation. I just do it."

Partial to doors

Roces does admit to a certain partiality to doors. "They're among my favorite things to work on. I can't imagine living in a place where all the doors are the same, or where all the doors are blank," she says, as if shuddering at the thought.

At Morita's, doors come in myriad colors, designs and sizes. Each has its own personality, if you will. At times designs are drawn from function, like the doors of the ladies' and men's rooms which have male and female symbols. But often they seem to spring solely from the artist's whim. They welcome you, draw you into her world.

The entry door is heavy and massive–a blue, carved, four-panel affair adorned with Spanish tiles and a wooden beam that acts as a "lock." This interesting detail, reminiscent of medieval times when people literally "barred" their doors, came about simply because Guerrero couldn't find a latch that she liked.

Also given a fresh treatment are the kitchen's double doors. Four glass panels, which afford views of the dining area for the staff, are shaped like large ancient keyholes. Or mosques. The Arabian feel is enhanced by the gold-flecked, deep periwinkle hue.

The door to the ladies' room, a perennial favorite, draws the eye as soon as one enters the restaurant. It sports a female figure peeking as if from a robe and hood. The door, done in gold tones, is encrusted with jewel glass and pearl beads, giving the figure an almost nymph-like quality.

On the other hand, the men's room door is given a more primitive treatment, with the figure of a half-squatting man painted against a black background. The symbolism is more overt, with the man surrounded by figures of earth, sun, and water, and his "jewels" in literal, stark relief.

Snapped up

"In my house, I actually prefer doors to paintings," Roces says. "Once I get tired of them, doors are easy to get rid of." Easy for this prolific artist to say: as of this writing, all the chairs in her restaurant have been snapped up by diners. No doubt, buyers were delighted with the detailed painting of a fish on each chair back. "I went through the whole encyclopedia of fish because no two are alike," she explains nonchalantly. "Maybe for the next batch, I'll do flowers."

More rooms upstairs reveal more doors. Another bathroom door features a woman and man (ah, unisex!) in a languid, Eden-like pose. The door to a clothing boutique is painted in ochre and has a whimsical stick figure of an upright black fox. On the opposite side is painted an angel as in a child's dream. Then on still another door, a woodland scene with a woman seemingly in repose.

Doubtless, Roces spent much time and effort on these. Yet she remains casual, even cavalier, about her work as pieces of art. "Maybe in a few months I'll do all the doors over. Or maybe I'll change all of this," she says, motioning around her restaurant.

"I have no attachments to my work. Like my apartment–I've done my wall over three times, and yet *ayaw pa* (it still won't come together). My friends see my work in progress and when they learn that I've painted over it again, they say, *'Ay, sayang* (what a waste).' But I'm not attached."

What then of the doors and other fixtures in her restaurant? Roces shrugs yet again: "When the time comes, people would be welcome to have them." Imagine the lucky diner who makes a bid and comes away with one, or several, of these doors. That would make for a memorable meal at Morita's, indeed.

Dying to be THIN?

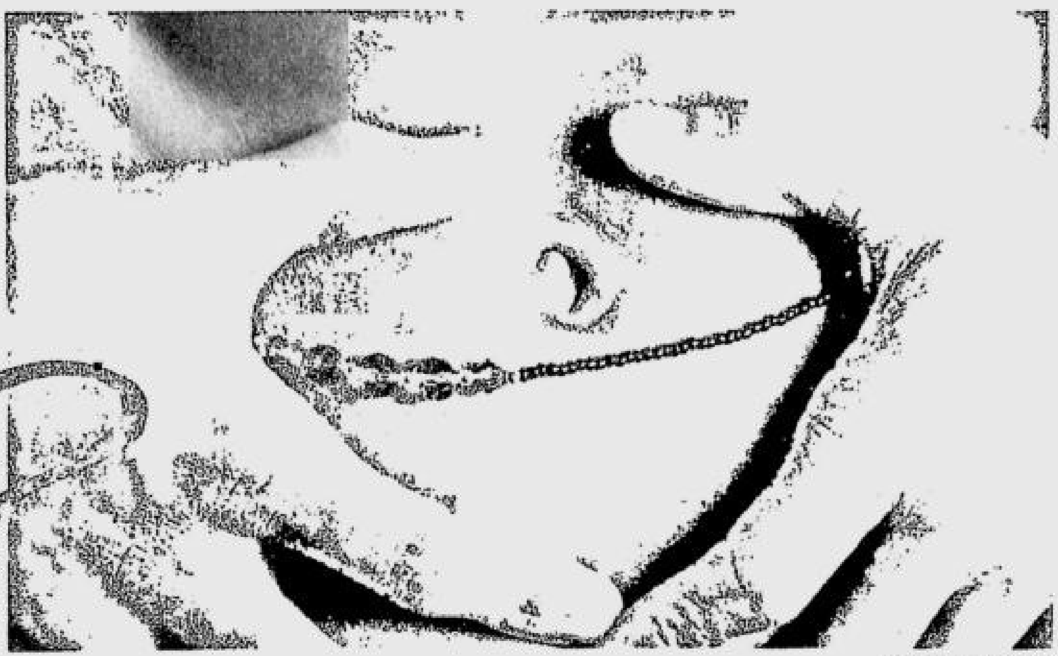


PHOTO BY PATRICK UY

EMBARKING on a diet is not as simply restricting food intake, losing and maintaining weight. When we enter this mysterious world of dieting, we enter a dream, a promise, maintained by an elaborate set of rituals.

Dieters invest mental energy in a battle against themselves to attain a specific weight that they feel would bring them the confidence, love, style, success, and acceptance they desire. Few win this battle.

Statistics reveal that 97 percent regain the weight lost from dieting, plus some more. We would never conclude that the diet doesn't work, only that the dieter is suffering from severe lack of self-control or will power. Just try harder. Yet there are reasons that diets will never work and why, if we are serious about regaining healthy eating habits, we need to say a long-overdue goodbye to calorie counting, raw carrots and scales.

Rebel within

As soon as we decide to start restricting food intake to lose weight, powerful psychological and physiological forces come into play. First, the body is magnificently equipped to avoid starvation. And so, at the first sign of impending famine, it slows down the metabolism in order to store fat longer. After some time, the appetite will increase dramatically. Thus we have to work harder and harder against the body's natural mechanisms.

Eventually, the psyche starts rebelling. It tires of conforming and begins to wreak havoc on the best-laid plans. As a child needs motive deeper than fear or rewards to be good and stay good, so the psyche rebels against the shallowness of the motivation. It will no longer put up with starvation, just to look good for everyone else. It stands its ground, and we head for the fridge.

This doesn't mean going back to normal eating habits. More often it's a binge, followed by another retribution diet, binge, diet, binge. When we are told that we can't have something in front of us, we suddenly develop an unnaturally strong desire for that very thing. This is why a dieting mentality generates food obsessions and, when the will is overcome, bingeing. Every time a diet is resumed, it becomes harder to lose weight, because the metabolism becomes less and less efficient.

> If you postpone living till you are slim, you will never be slim and you will never start living, writes British life coach Jill Sawers

Although the futility of dieting may be obvious, it's not easy to renounce its powerful lure. For years, it held within it the promise of a bright future, and avoidance of present pains. Although diets have kept many in a pattern of being in tight control and then completely out of control, still we fear that if we gave up trying to control ourselves, we would be out of control forever, and then who could possibly know what disastrous results await us?

Letting go

Once the mind and body are convinced that deprivation is not lurking in the next corner, they will begin to relax and find their own rhythm.

The first step is to give ourselves full permission to eat and enjoy whatever food we desire. If the very thought strikes fear, then this is definitely the advice: The longer we fear food, the longer it will control us. We have to face that fear by keeping a wide range of foods available to us all the time, more than we could eat in one or two sittings. This helps convince our mind that the food isn't going to run out, so we don't need to eat everything while we can.

If this sounds illogical, think of the last time we binged on chocolate or ice cream. Did we eat half a bar, fold the wrapper neatly and kept it for a later date? More likely we finished the whole thing. Plus anything sweet we could find immediately afterwards.

Now imagine we are faced with a cupboard so full that we could never empty it. At some point, we would have to say, "Enough!" We may at first find ourselves eating huge amounts of food, but eventually we will be saying "Enough!" more frequently.

If bingeing doesn't start to diminish after a long period, we may start treating this new approach as yet another diet. And because it doesn't work, we will go back to a "real diet."

It is recommended that we discard or at least pack away our scales, so we don't panic. Equally important: if we begin to lose weight, it will be fatal to base our happiness on that. We need to break free from having our happiness dictated by those little numbers on the gadget.

We shouldn't wait to reach an "ideal" size to do what we want to do. Whether it is to wear nice clothes, create new relationships or embark on a new venture, if we postpone living till we are slim, we will never be slim, and we will never start living.

A good idea is to avoid reading magazines for a while. They only trigger comparisons, low self-esteem ... and compulsion to go on yet another diet.

Eat to overcome

The first step in the healing process is to start accepting the body as it is now, understand the reasons behind our inability to lose weight, and to ease up on ourselves.

Heal negative eating patterns by replacing them with good ones. This involves listening carefully, internally, to discern whether the urge to eat is a healthy physical hunger or a spiritual, emotional or mental hunger. It could take some practice to make the distinction clearly. Those for whom hunger is often the last reason for eating will find that the signal for genuine hunger is very subtle.

Lists of special foods and calorie requirements have often put us out of touch with our body's own capability to know what we actually need. If we don't satisfy that need, we may eat much more than we require. The act of respecting hunger, rather than denying or suppressing it, and then eating only what is required, is a great act of self-love.

Rules for eating

1) Forget the rules that had you counting every morsel and feeling guilty for breaking them.

2) Check whether you are really hungry.

3) Ask yourself what you really feel like eating.

4) If you realize you are not hungry but you still want to eat, acknowledge you are comfort-eating. Again, ask yourself what you really want to eat.

5) Make an occasion out of each meal, and enjoy each mouthful.

6) If you do comfort-eat, don't feel guilty afterwards.

7) Discover what triggered the need to comfort-eat, and see if you can find a more appropriate way of dealing with it in the future.

Facing the feelings

Loneliness, boredom, excitement, celebrations, nervousness, rejection–any of these can send a compulsive eater to the fridge. Eating can be misused to block out these unpleasant feelings in two ways:

First, while eating, the mind is given a break from feeling the feelings.

Second, after the binge, we occupy our mind with bad feelings towards the self, and the weight gain. The original fear or problem has now been transferred to the eating and weight problem (translation: if only there were victory over the weight, everything in life would be perfect).

Upon losing weight, people are often disappointed to find that their lives haven't really improved all that much.

As part of the healing of negative eating patterns, it is important that we become more sensitive and sympathetic to our emotions. Keeping a diary of emotions can be useful for this, as can observing our feelings toward different people.

Breathing deeply, consciously relaxing and eating slowly can help us face rather than run away from feelings.

Satisfying spiritual hunger

Ultimately overcoming overeating is a process for which we need to draw deeply on our stock of patience and self-love. Instead of putting a dummy in the form of food in our mouths, we must keep asking ourselves, what is the real need? The desire to overeat is simply our inner child crying out for some quality attention. That quality attention can involve asking our inner self such questions as "How am I feeling? What do I want? Will food give me what I want? Is this emotional or physical hunger? What does the soul need? What do I need to experience or express?"

Learn to love and understand the self, and ultimately transform negative conditioning. There is a difference between the inner being and the body. Instead of needing external beauty to feel valuable, let us experience our inner strength and develop a stronger sense of self worth. Maintain the body out of a sense of love and responsibility for the self, rather than using it to seek attention and satisfaction.

Writing affirmations based on the concept of the inner self, living and caring for the physical body, can work wonders and reprogram old thought patterns with minimal effort. You can write them or speak them, or both.

Here are some examples : "I have a healthy vibrant body which I treat respectfully." "I treat my precious body with love and care." "I am a contented soul who treats my body with gentleness and respect." "I am a goddess residing in my sacred temple with dignity and peace."

Write this up to 100 times.

Survival kit

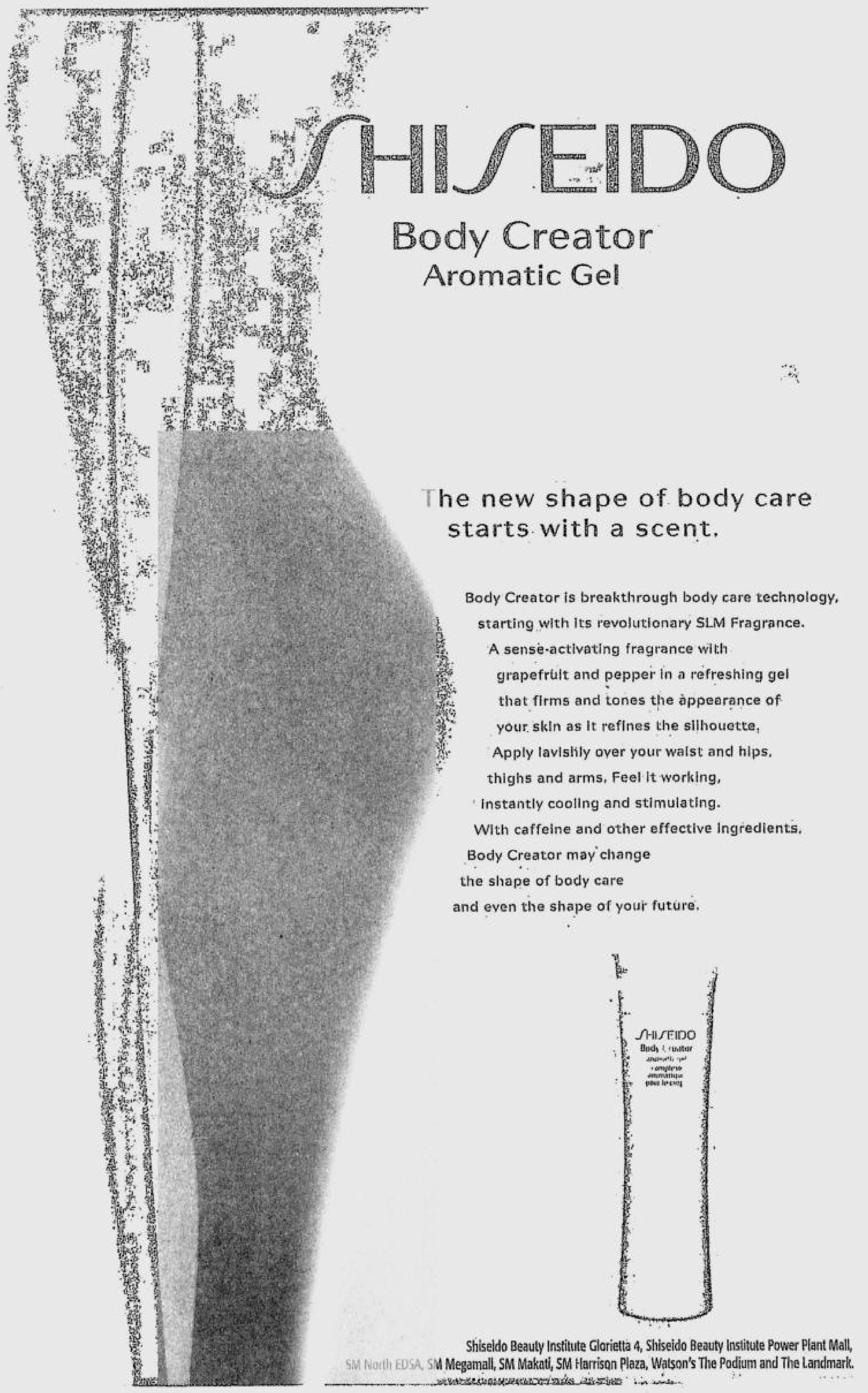
The journey back to emotional, physical and mental well-being is a life-long one, and a test of patience. Here are some reminders.

What can help?

Understanding that we aren't abnormal or crazy, only compulsive. Find new ways to express. Give up sugar, which is an addictive substance. It can often reduce bingeing to 90 percent. Learn more about the interaction between food, the body and emotions. Learn new ways to nurture ourselves that don't involve eating. Exercise moderately. Wear comfortable clothes that we feel good in. Keep a daily diary, preferably of affirmations.

What doesn't help?

Going to doctors, therapists, counselors who aren't specialized in the area of eating disorders. Dieting, vomiting, pills, diet drinks, laxatives. Worrying constantly about your weight or food. Weighing yourself several times a day. Reading the monthly glossies. Giving yourself a hard time about anything.



SHISEIDO
Body Creator
Aromatic Gel

The new shape of body care
starts with a scent.

Body Creator is breakthrough body care technology,
starting with its revolutionary SLM Fragrance.
A sense-activating fragrance with
grapefruit and pepper in a refreshing gel
that firms and tones the appearance of
your skin as it refines the silhouette,
Apply lavishly over your waist and hips,
thighs and arms. Feel it working,
instantly cooling and stimulating.
With caffeine and other effective ingredients,
Body Creator may change
the shape of body care
and even the shape of your future.

Shiseido Beauty Institute Glorietta 4, Shiseido Beauty Institute Power Plant Mall,
SM North EDSA, SM Megamall, SM Makati, SM Harrison Plaza, Watson's The Podium and The Landmark.

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Every hurdle brings you closer to the goal

NORDIC
NORDIC

HIGHER!

Photos by Jun de Leon • Pictorial direction by Antonio Salac Santos

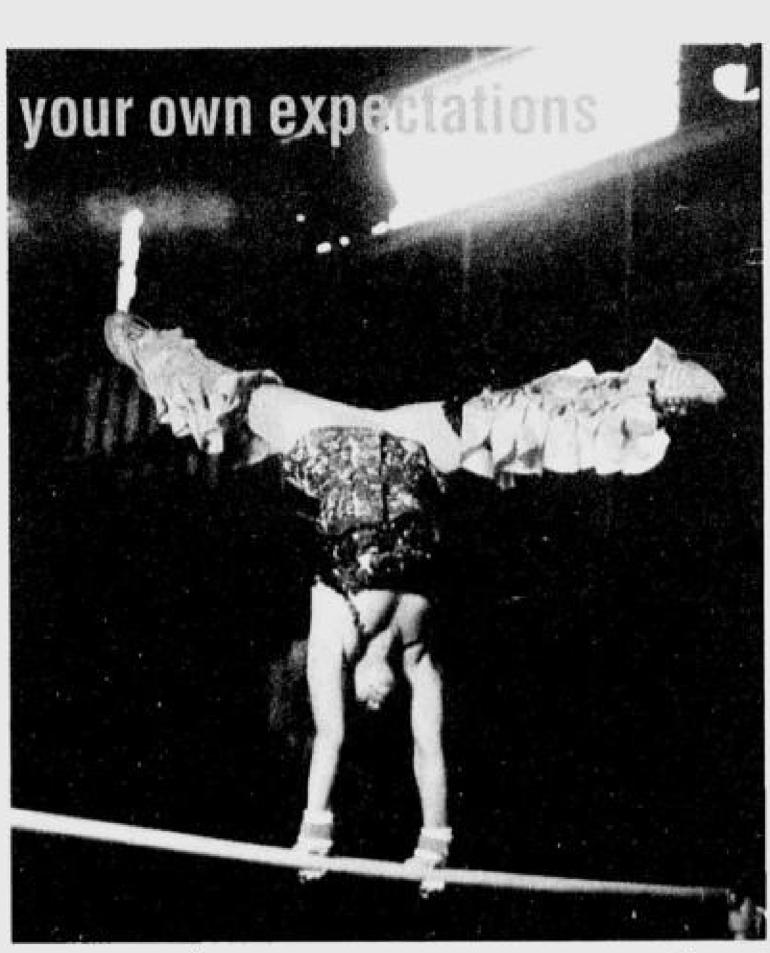
MODELS: LERMA BULAUITAN-GABITO, MARESTELLA TORRES, JULIE ALAGDE, LIZETTE DUCO
CLOTHES: EDDIE BADDEO; HAIR AND MAKEUP: ERIC MANINGAT SHOES: ADIDAS; MAKEUP: ESTEE LAUDER
LOCATIONS: RIZAL MEMORIAL SPORTS COMPLEX (TRACK AND FIELD STADIUM AND GYMNASTICS CENTER)
SPECIAL THANKS TO PDI SPORTS SECTION, PHILIPPINE SPORTS COMMISSION, PHILIPPINE AMATEUR TRACK AND FIELD ASSOCIATION AND GYMNASTICS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES.

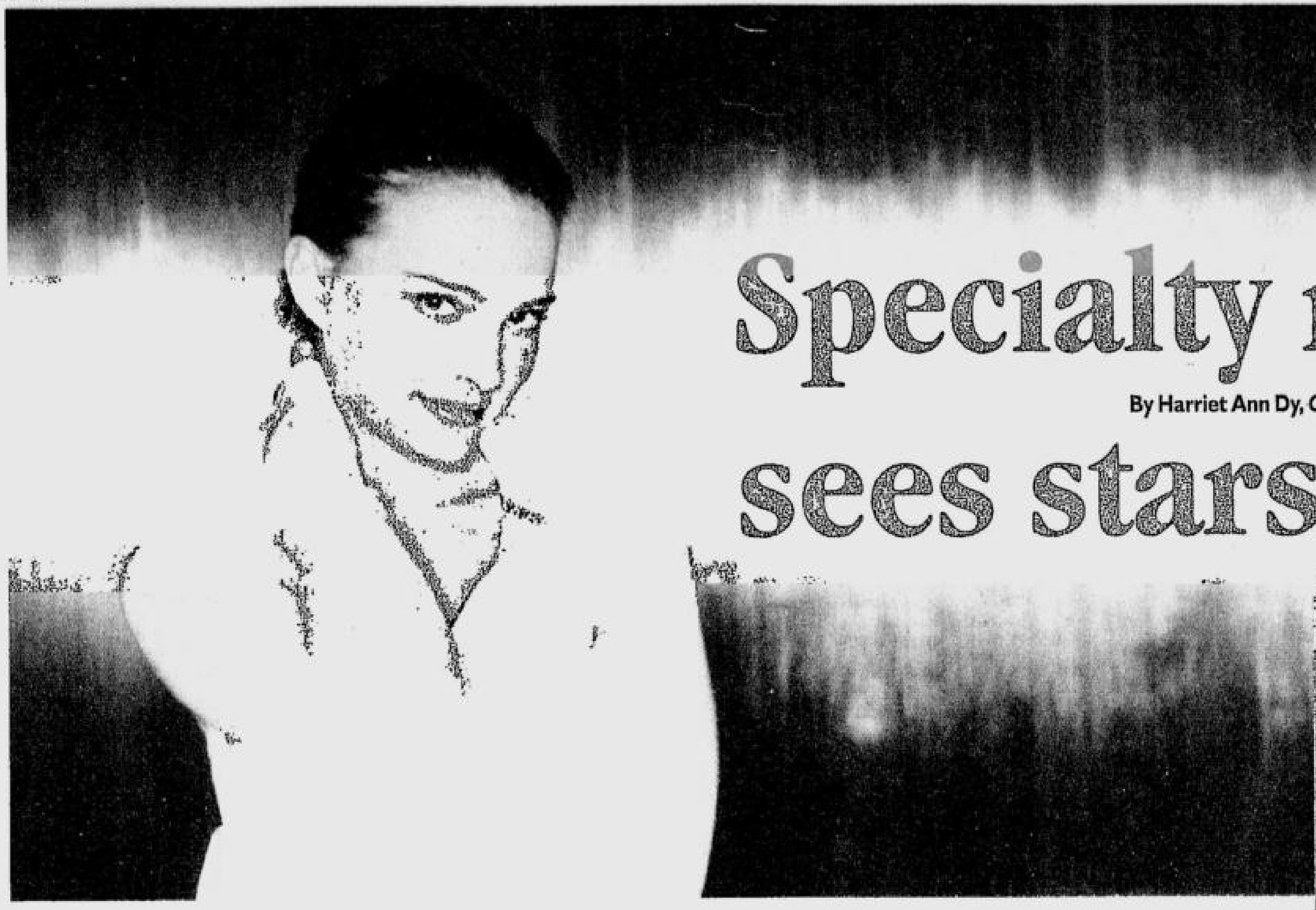
Reach heights you’ve never ev dreamt about

Go the distance!

Happiness means breaking your own ‘personal best’

Rise above your own expectations





Specialty retailer sees stars, again

By Harriet Ann Dy, Contributor

KAMISETA entrepreneur Gonzalo Roque III fell in love with Natalie Portman, star of "Episode I: The Phantom Menace" and "Episode II: The Attack of the Clones," almost the same way he did with another American actress, Alicia Silverstone: he found the Hollywood connection difficult to resist.

Especially since both women agreed to endorse the Kamiseta clothing line.

"We want to show the world that Filipino products are world-class–in our case, that even the likes of Ms. Portman want to be associated with the brand, be a Kamiseta girl," he says.

This was his same refrain more than a year ago, when INQUIRER first wrote about Kamiseta's much-talked about Alicia Silverstone ad campaign. It was no doubt a coup, at least from the celebrity endorsement angle. As soon as billboards featuring the former "Clueless" star began to appear around the metropolis, another teen clothes chain, Penshoppe, tapped American singer Mandy Moore.

And now, Portman.

No stranger to fashion–she is currently the muse of upcoming fashion designer Zac Posen and was identified with Isaac Mizrahi–Portman joins the expanding list of Kamiseta endorsers. His contact recommended the 21-year-old Portman who is hottest teen star. The actress is coming out in "Cold Mountain" with Nicole Kidman and in "Star Wars 3."

The pictorial was held last March in New York. Kamiseta assembled the American team led by lensman Alex Kashishan who was also director of photography of Madonna's ouvre, "Truth or Dare." Portman brought her stylist, Wendy Schecter.

Aside from Ms. Silverstone, Portman's predecessors include celebrity sisters China and Mai-Mai Cojuangco.

Although Roque is coy about whether the Hollywood connection does attract more business, he does say that his company is "very happy with Alicia Silverstone."

"All our targets have been met and," he adds tactfully, "this is the same with all previous Kamiseta girls."

Rise and rise

With 31 stores across the country, Kamiseta amplifies the rise and rise of local mid-market specialty clothing retailers. At the head of the pack are well-entrenched chains like Bench and Penshoppe, each with more than 100 boutiques and concessionaires nationwide. Both chains are pursuing expansion plans in China.

Kamiseta's growth–30 percent in the first quarter of 2002–reflects the growing sophistication and buying power of the Filipino "twenteen," a market segment that just about covers the ages 16 to 29. The growth is also attributed to frequent mall sales that attract bargain-happy Filipinas. Aside from Kamiseta, consider how similarly focused stores like Bayo, Freeway, upcoming establishments like Rustan's U, Folded & Hung, Mint, Pink Soda, Solo, and familiar names like Anonymous and Sari-Sari Store have aggressively staked their claim on the market in the last two years.

"Although teenagers are our major customer group, our design and merchandise mix caters to a wider base," says Mr. Roque. "[However], when we create our designs, we work around the Kamiseta lifestyle which does not aim for a certain age group. It is about girls who want to enjoy life."

In other words, young, fashion-conscious women who simply must have the latest shirt or shoes.

For their typical shopper, Roque notes, style takes precedence over price. In fact, Kamiseta's bestsellers are the "higher bracket goods with special cuts and details". The footwear line also grew by 30 percent over the same period last year.

Kamiseta's unique style positioning is "casual classic lifestyle"–fashion staples with a twist here and there. New collections are brought every week to all stores around the country. Its top three Manila-based stores account for 85 percent of the business.

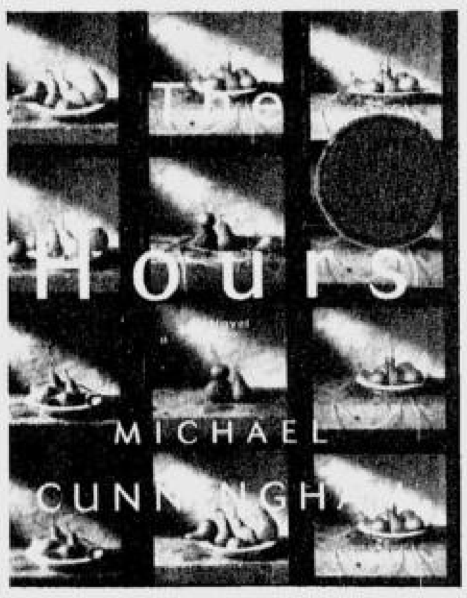
"We are not too trendy and never too loud," says Mr. Roque of Kamiseta's successful formula.

Email the author at chinachix@hotmail.com

Kamiseta's 'casual classic lifestyle look' suits Hollywood actress Natalie Portman just fine

Turning back 'The Hours'

By Cherish Garcia-Hernandez
Contributor



With a nod to Virginia Wolf, the author tells us that sorrow, pain and the eventuality of death could be eclipsed by simple gestures

REVIEW

The Hours
By: Michael Cunningham
1998, Picador USA, 228 pages

NOW a critically acclaimed, star-studded motion picture, "The Hours" was a Pulitzer Prize winning novel before it was adapted for the big screen. Written by Michael Cunningham, the novel is about three women from different periods in history–author Virginia Wolf, as she was recuperating in a London suburb from a nervous breakdown, and two fictional characters, namely Laura Brown, a 1950s housewife in suburban Los Angeles, and Clarissa Vaughan, an accomplished book editor who lives in present-day New York City.

Cunningham deftly cuts back and forth in telling the stories of these three women, leading lives that are very different on the surface, but prove to be closely intertwined upon further reading.

The novel pays homage to Wolf's 1925 novel, "Mrs. Dalloway," about a day in the life of a proper but uninspired wife, and a tragic event that transforms her. It is this novel that Laura Brown engrosses herself in to escape a suffocating marriage.

Essentially plotless, "The Hours" follows these women as they go about their daily lives. Virginia Wolf contemplates suicide while writing her famous novel "Mrs. Dalloway," who's working title, was, by no coincidence, "The Hours." Clarissa Vaughan, whose ex-lover Richard, fondly calls her Mrs. Dalloway (the protagonist in Wolf's novel is named Clarissa), is busy preparing for a party and on her way to buy flowers as she ponders the past, her life and loves, while walking around New York City. Laura Brown's portion is centered upon her baking a birthday cake for her husband with the help of her son. Mundane actions reek of stark loneliness, longing, and emptiness in these seemingly perfect lives.

It would be interesting to see how this is all translated into film because there isn't much happening on the surface. Many agree that the film is an excellent rendition, and more than one friend who has seen the movie has commented on lesbian undertones.

Even in the book, these undertones are palpable–from Virginia Wolf's obsessive adoration of her sister Vanessa, to an ambiguous kiss Laura Brown gives a friend. Even more overt is Clarissa's 18-year relationship with her lover Sally. But to tag the novel as simply being anti-men would trivialize the gargantuan task that Cunningham has undertaken, of attempting to re-tell a great piece of literature. He succeeds seamlessly, and superbly.

"The Hours" voices out years of inner repression women have had to deal with in terms of being true to their feelings, because of what is expected of them. More than that, Cunningham makes readers realize that even the most accomplished could one day look back on their lives and see nothing. There is also something terribly introspective in Cunningham's beautifully textured writing. We find ourselves reading about our own private struggles and unnamed thoughts as echoed by these women. The writer challenges what we choose to admit about ourselves and brings us a step closer to some sort of truth. Embracing the unchangeability of the past, this novel can be depressing or inspiring.

Universal themes resonate throughout Cunningham's prose, among them the need for independence, and never-ending ruminations on mortality. And with a nod to Virginia Wolf, Cunningham tells us that sorrow, pain and the eventuality of death are eclipsed by simple gestures, like going out for a walk on a beautiful day. It is the promise of these moments that keep us going. As Clarissa realizes in the end: "There's just this for consolation–an hour here or there when our lives seem, against all odds and expectations, to burst open and give us everything we've ever imagined."

"The Hours" haunts the reader long after she–or he–puts the book down.

E-mail the author at cherishgh@yahoo.com

Exotic Eden

WE'VE been accustomed to seeing this sun season's makeup on delicate porcelain beauties, be they *chinitas* or *mestizas*. How does Estée Lauder's Pure Eden makeup look on *morenas* with strong features? Bright colors flatter the skin tones of Lerma Bulauitan-Gabito and Marestella Torres. Serpent, a vivid green shade, and Orchid, soft pink, enhance their deepset eyes. These dramatic eye colors are balanced by sheer lip hues in lilac and mauve. Top off with Illusionist colored mascara.

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FUN, FUN, FUN AND MORE AT EVER GOTESCO MALLS

EVER Gotesco Malls continue to provide its patrons with lots of fun and excitement as celebrities grace the grounds of Ever almost every week. Making sure those Ever patrons will definitely enjoy their shopping at the Mall all the time. Not only do Ever patrons get to have an experience of a worthwhile shopping but also they get to have a fantastic experience in the form of live entertainment from the stars who have visited the Mall.

Recently, **Ms. Joyce Jimenez** promoted her Private Joyce Videoke Collection from BMG Records at Ever Commonwealth, Ever Ortigas and Ever Grand Central. Like an angel sent from above, her loveliness caught everyone's eyes in the Mall. If Joyce can do such, so can the **Sexbomb Dancers.** As expected they drew a big crowd during their live performance at Ever Commonwealth. **Daisy Reyes**, on the other hand made all the guys' heart throb when she visited Ever Ortigas. The ladies at Ever Manila Plaza took pleasure in the rendition of songs by **"The Freshmen"**.

With **ABS-CBN's Ka-Pamilya Tour** at Ever Commonwealth, Ever Ortigas and Ever Manila Plaza., the crowd extremely enjoyed the usual antics of **Bayani Agbayani** who headed the group of **Klasmeyts**. **Dindong Avanzado** and **Tootsie Guevarra** catered to the delight of their respective audiences as well. Like an outrage for the fans of the famous group **Berks. John Prats** as young as he seems made the fans went wild when they saw him live at the Mall along with the rest of his fellow young stars.

For the past events, Ever patrons will certainly love to always recall the stars they have seen at Ever Gotesco Malls, especially the time when the **Sexbomb Girls** launched their album. Huge crowd supported Rochelle, Jopay, Weng, Izzy, Monique and Yvette. They sold Php132,000.00 worth of CDs and cassette tapes breaking all records in Mall Album Selling.

The stars of **GMA 7's Telebabad** likewise visited Ever Gotesco Malls. Just the sight of their favorite Tele-Serye stars **Dingdong Dantes, Tanya Garcia, Sunshine Dizon, Cogie Domingo, Angelika Dela Cruz, Victor Neri** and the rest of the gang gave so much satisfaction to their many followers.

Sexy female stars and singers like **Diana Zubiri, Selina, Mystica, Nina, Gail Blanco, Maui Taylor** and a lot more have also gone to the Mall. Their presence and performances along with those of the male stars **April Boy Regino, the April Boys Vingo and Jimmy, Francis Magalona and Andrew E.** gave more reasons for Ever shoppers to keep on coming back to Ever Gotesco Malls for more shopping, dining and entertainment.

Included in the line up of Ever Gotesco Malls' activities is the celebration of different special occasions. The **Skippy Amazing World Easter Celebration** made the kids amused with the games they played. Ever Gotesco Malls also had the **Nestle Summer Tour**. A program hosted by no less than **Onemig Bondoc**. Participating audience really took that videoke challenge when they did a back to back with Ms. Regine Velasquez over a videowall for the promotion of **Nestle Back-to-Back Ice Cream.**

Ever Gotesco Malls do not limit Ever patrons to pure entertainment. Different promotions to entice the shoppers more have been structured. This is also one way for Ever Gotesco Malls to express their appreciation of the strong support their getting from their patrons.

The Electrifying Summer Fan Promo is still on-going. For every Php400.00 worth of purchase made from any of the stores at Ever Gotesco Malls except Ever Supermarket, Ever Department Store and Homeworks entitle customers to avail of the promo. Hurry! Promo has been extended up to the 31st of May. Shoppers may present single or accumulated purchase receipts within the promo duration. Additional cash amounting to Php499.00 gives the chance to customers to take advantage of the Super Windy Stand Fan.

This does not mean that Ever Gotesco Malls do not have anything to offer for those who are making purchases from Ever Supermarket and Ever Department Store. Ever shoppers, grab your **FREE Merienda Time Ice Cream** from Nestle up to May 11, 2003 if your purchase amounts to Php500.00 worth (single receipt). This **Shopping 'N Ice Cream Promo** can be availed for purchases made only at **Ever Supermarket** and **Ever Department Store.**

In the coming activities and promotions, **Ever Gotesco Malls** desire to strengthen the partnership with its patrons. It is the thrust of the Mall to continuously provide total satisfaction. Satisfaction when you **shop at Ever Department Stores** and **all the stores at Ever Gotesco Malls**, when you do the **grocery at Ever Supermarket** and when you **watch movies at Ever Cinemas.**

Bigger and better offers for await all Ever patrons. On top of these, Ever Gotesco Malls will always make it a point that you are having fun at the Malls.

ADVT.

Super Mom Ever
Mother's Day
May 11, 2003
PUPUNG
Tonton Young

Ganda ng Mommy Mo Noh!

On Mother's Day, May 11, first five mothers to visit Ricky Super Style at Ever Grand Plaza, Ever Ortigas and Ever Manila Plaza will certainly enjoy Ricky Super Style's special gift. So kids bring your Moms early to have a Php300.00 worth of gift certificate. After your visit, no way your friends won't say "Ganda ng Mommy Mo Noh!".

Love Notes

Expressing our feelings for Mom truly entails extra effort that's why Ever Gotesco Mall is making it easier through the LOVE NOTES . Let our mothers know how blessed and grateful we are for having them through our unique and creative greetings posted on our Love Notes boards from May 9 to 15 at the Mall Atrium of Ever Commonwealth and Ever Ortigas.

Ever Supermarket's I Love You Mommy

Customers will have the chance to Pick-A-Prize for a minimum purchase of Php300.00 of participating products in a single receipt. Prizes at stake are washing machines, coffee makers, gas stoves, flat irons and a lot more! Promo runs from May 1-15, 2003.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1654 series of 2003

Extra-Beauty Treats kay Mommy

Nanays can be really lucky on Mother's Day!!! They simply have to be at Ever Gotesco Malls on May 11 to get a chance for extra-BEAUTY TREATS from selected beauty salons at Ever Grand Central, Ever Commonwealth, Ever Ortigas and Ever Manila Plaza.

Kay Nanay at Buong Pamilya Fair

A whole-day celebration of the entire family awaits our Moms on May 10 at Ever Commonwealth and on May 16 at Ever Ortigas. Not only that we should look forward to a wide variety of entertainment on this day but also for special gifts in store to the lucky Moms who will be chosen during the Program.

Regalong Pang-Mommy

Wonder what to give mom on Mother's Day? Here's a one-stop-shop for you. Just go to the Mall Atrium of Ever Commonwealth from May 5-30 and Ever Ortigas from May 11-13 and grab wonderful and exciting gifts for your Moms.

Kimbies Mother's Day Celebration

Kimbies celebrates Mother's Day at Ever Ortigas on May 10 and at Ever Commonwealth on May 11. Lots of fun and happenings for the whole family and especially for Mommy brought to us by Kimbies. Don't miss these dates as Kimby Mascot will be waiting for you.

Ever Department Store Celebrates Mother's Day

A minimum purchase worth Php500.00 (single receipt) made from any of the following departments: Ladies wear & inner wear, ladies accessories, body shops & cosmetics, houseware, home linen and decor, entitles customers to three (3) artificial roses. Promo runs from May 5-11, 2003.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1043 series of 2003

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SATURDAY Special

E-mail: pr_saturday_special@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Nestor U. Torre
Associate Editor Edmund L. Sicam

Hoffman plays the heavy in crime caper

By David Germain

LOS ANGELES—Assessing a long weekend of interviews to promote his new film "Confidence," Dustin Hoffman decides he's given only one decent response to the many questions asked.

HOFFMAN as controversial stand-up comic Lenny Bruce.

Confident

A reporter asked Hoffman if he himself were confident. Hoffman's answer: When he comes to a one-way street, he looks both ways before crossing—whereas a confident man looks only in the direction from which traffic flows.

"That was my one good answer all weekend," Hoffman recalls.

Hoffman seriously underestimates his gift for gab, though. More so than perhaps any other Hollywood star, Hoffman plays the raconteur when chatting with reporters, offering personal asides, historical trivia and ribald anecdotes while discussing his current movie.

"There is nothing more fun than talking to Dustin Hoffman, whether for 10 minutes or 10 hours," says Edward Burns, who plays a con man in "Confidence" whose gang reluctantly finds itself pulling a job for crime boss Hoffman. "He's unrelenting. It's one great story after another."

Sound-bite answers

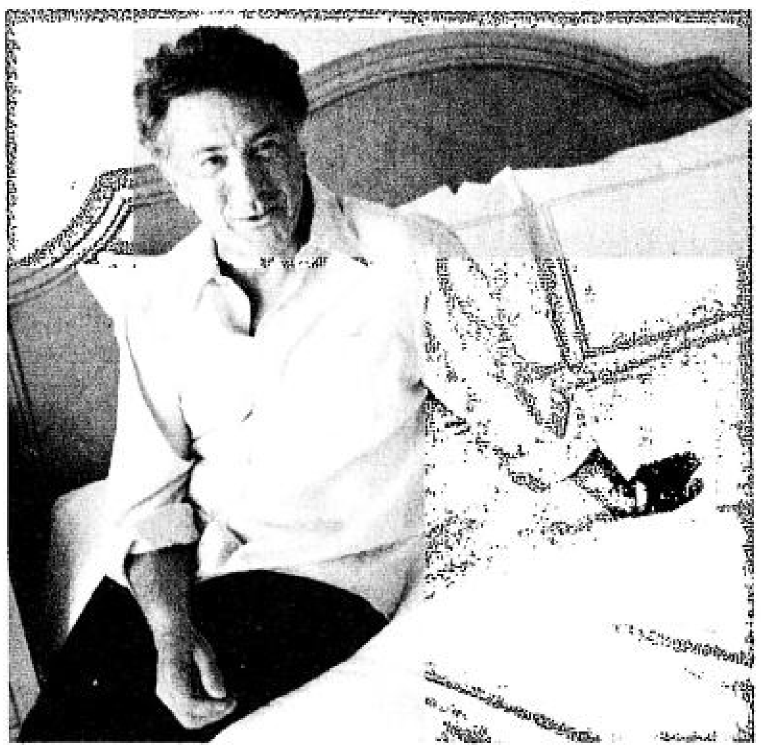
Many celebrities settle on short, quotable sound-bite answers and offer them up repeatedly in interview after interview. Hoffman will rattle on for 15 minutes to answer a single question.

"Cut me off anywhere you want here. I can't help it," Hoffman advises early in an interview. "I don't know how to do two-sentence answers. I'd love to be the guy that's asked, 'How do you feel?' and says, 'Good.' Then on to the next question. That is our culture now, isn't it? Sound bites."

Hoffman, 65, has run counter to Hollywood expectations since his film debut in Mike Nichols' "The Graduate" in 1967. At 30, he was old for a rookie movie actor. Until then, he had been a stage performer who disdained scripts that came his way because he wanted to remain in theater.

And he broke the mold of the tall, generically handsome leading man, opening the door for such movie stars as Jack Nicholson, Al Pacino and Robert De Niro.

"The truth of the matter is, I'm a freak accident," says Hoffman, going on to detail the character descriptions he encountered for Hollywood auditions before "The Graduate."



DUSTIN Hoffman is playing a string of supporting film roles, including a mob boss targeted by a gang of small-time con men in the new movie "Confidence."

AP

"They tell you the parts available: Arthur, 35, smokes a pipe, leading man. His wife, beautiful, wears diaphanous gowns, leading. Daughter, ingenue, the word means she's beautiful. Next to that is character juvenile; that's her ugly girlfriend, to give her contrast. Same is true of juvenile male, good-looking. And character juvenile, that's the part I could go for.

Character juvenile

"Mike Nichols changes everything and makes the character juvenile the leading juvenile, who then becomes, because the movie works, a version of what Hollywood euphemistically calls a leading man."

In the years since, Hoffman has taken wild turns in screen roles, among them the seedy Ratso Rizzo in "Midnight Cowboy," the Custer's Last Stand survivor in "Little Big Man," the academic-turned-vigilante in "Straw Dogs," the cross-dressing actor of "Tootsie" and Tom Cruise's autistic brother in "Rain Man," which earned Hoffman his second Academy Award (the first came for "Kramer vs. Kramer").

HOFFMAN in his first major movie, "The Graduate."

Hoffman's had his share of commercial and critical flops, including "Ishtar," "Sphere" and "The Messenger: The Story of Joan of Arc," in which he had a small role as Joan's conscience.

The latter two followed 1997's "Wag the Dog," which earned Hoffman the most recent of his seven Oscar nominations. After that came one of Hoffman's periodic retreats from film.

Sometimes, Hoffman has filled the gaps between films with returns to the stage. The last few years, he's been developing a couple of screenplays with the idea of directing and starring in them himself.

Developing his own projects is a necessity as he ages to avoid becoming marginalized into older, peripheral characters. As a concession to the young audience that drives Hollywood, one of Hoffman's scripts would pair him with a much-younger actress.

First weekend

"Yes, you wake up one morning and you say, 'Oh, there's less scripts available, because I'm now 65,'" Hoffman says. "Kids make up the first weekend at the box office. I don't know if they're going to run in there the first weekend to see a movie that concentrates on a 55-year-old man and a 45-year-old woman who fall in love."

Hoffman is in the midst of a flurry of films that began with last fall's "Moonlight Mile." This fall, he co-stars with Gene Hackman and John Cusack in the John Grisham thriller "The Runaway Jury." Early next year, he appears in "J.M. Barrie's Neverland," starring Johnny Depp as the children's author who created "Peter Pan."

The character Hoffman plays in "Confidence," directed by

HOFFMAN/ D3

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Per DTI-NCR No. 1175, Series of 2003

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1 TILL THERE WAS YOU	1 BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE	ArtFilm 1 25TH HOUR 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 1 BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45, 12:00	THX 1 X-MEN 2
2 CONFESSIONS OF A DANGEROUS MIND	2 CONFESSIONS OF A DANGEROUS MIND	2 X-MEN 2 12:40, 3:20, 6:00, 8:40	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 X-MEN 2 1:30, 4:25, 7:20, 10:15	2 BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE
3 BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 3 X-MEN 2 11:40, 2:30, 5:20, 8:10, 11:00	ACOUSTIC NIGHT OUT FEAT. SIDE A May 16, 17, 30 & 31	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 PINOCCHIO 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30	3 X-MEN 2
4 X-MEN 2	4 25TH HOUR		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 CONFESSIONS OF A DANGEROUS MIND 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00, 11:20	CONFESSIONS OF A DANGEROUS MIND
	5 JOHNNY ENGLISH		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 X-MEN 2 12:45, 5:40, 8:35, 11:30	5 TILL THERE WAS YOU
	6 X-MEN 2			
	7 TILL THERE WAS YOU			

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9	TILL THERE WAS YOU
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3	BAYARAN

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4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	X-MEN-2
5	BAYARAN

METROPOLIS star

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2	XEREX
3	X-MEN-2
4	TILL THERE WAS YOU
5	CONFESSION OF A DANGEROUS MIND
6	BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE

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THX

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X-MEN-2

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1	
2	BAYARAN
3	

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2	TILL THERE WAS YOU
3	BAYARAN
4	

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City

(Manila) tel 734.8588

3	CONFESSION OF A DANGEROUSE MIND
4	BAYARAN
5	XEREX
6	TILL THERE WAS YOU
7 (DTS)	X-MEN-2
8 (SDDS)	BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE
9 (DOLBY)	X-MEN-2

Gotesco Caloocan

tel 362.3508

2	RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central

(Caloocan) tel 365.7928

1	XEREX
2	TILL THERE WAS YOU
3	TILL THERE WAS YOU
4 (SDDS)	X-MEN-2
5	BAYARAN
6 (DOLBY)	X-MEN 2
7 (DTS)	BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE
8	PUNLA
9	BOLD STAR

Gotesco Commonwealth

tel 951.0082

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2 (SDDS)	XEREX
3 (DTS)	X-MEN-2
4 (DOLBY)	BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE
5	TILL THERE WAS YOU

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1	TILL THERE WAS YOU
2	XEREX
3	CONFESSION OF A DANGEROUSE MIND
4	BAYARAN
5 (SDDS)	X-MEN-2

Universal

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1	BAYARAN

Sampaquita

(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	BAYARAN

Dilson

(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson Lords Jennet	RESERVE

MARRETHEATRE

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2	TILL THERE WAS YOU
3	BAYARAN
4	RESERVE

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1 (DOLBY)	X-MEN-2
2	XEREX
3	BAYARAN
4	TILL THERE WAS YOU
5	CONFESSION OF A DANGEROUSE MIND

FRC Cinema

(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

1	
2	

Berma Cinema

(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	TILL THERE WAS YOU
2	X-MEN-2

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MALL CINEPLEX 7

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1	XEREX
2	TILL THERE WAS YOU
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE
4 (SDDS)	X-MEN-2
5	CONFESSION OF A DANGEROUSE MIND
6	BAYARAN
7	JOHNNY ENGLISH

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS

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1	X-MEN-2
2	XEREX

CINEMA 2000

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1	BAYARAN
2	TILL THERE WAS YOU
3 (DTS)	X-MEN-2

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

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1	A MAN APART
2 (DTS)	TILL THERE WAS YOU
3 (DOLBY)	X-MEN-2
4	BAYARAN

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall

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2 (DOLBY)	A MAN APART
3 (DTS)	X-MEN-2
4	BAYARAN

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2	XEREX
3 (DOLBY)	EQUILIBRIUM
4	

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3 (DOLBY)	KANGAROO JACK
4 (SRF)	X-MEN-2

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2 (DTS)	TILL THERE WAS YOU
3	XEREX

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1 (SDDS)	BAYARAN
2	BOLDD STAR
3 (DTS)	TILL THERE WAS YOU
4	X-MEN-2

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2	TILL THERE WAS YOU
3 (DTS)	X-MEN-2
4	BAYARAN
5	NATIONAL SECURITY

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1	BAYARAN
2	TILL THERE WAS YOU
3	X-MEN-2

Olivarez Los Baños

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1	X-MEN-2
2	TILL THERE WAS YOU
3	BAYARAN

Mega Center Mall

(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	JOHNNY ENGLISH
2	XEREX
3 (DTS)	TILL THERE WAS YOU
4 (DOLBY)	X-MEN-2

Cabuyao

(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	RESERVE
2 (DTS)	RESERVE

Emperor

(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	BOLD STAR
2	TILL THERE WAS YOU
3	RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall

(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	XEREX
2	X-MEN-2
3	TILL THERE WAS YOU
4	JOHNNY ENGLISH

Jade Cinema

(Angeles City) tel (045)887-5001 TO 03

1 (DOLBY DIG)	EQUILIBRIUM
2	TILL THERE WAS YOU
3	X-MEN-2
4	XEREX

Cine Nepo Mall

(Angeles City) te (045) 887-0121

1	TILL THERE WAS YOU
2	A MAN APART
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4 (DTS)	X-MEN-2

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3	X-MEN 2
4	BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE
5	CONFESSIONS OF A DANGEROUS MIND
6	TILL THERE WAS YOU
7	BAYARAN
8	JOHNNY ENGLISH

SM CENTERPOINT

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1	TILL THERE WAS YOU
2	JOHNNY ENGLISH
3	X-MEN 2
4	XEREX
5	X-MEN 2
6	BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE
7	CONFESSIONS OF A DANGEROUS MIND
8	SOULKEEPER
9	BAYARAN
10	TILL THERE WAS YOU

SM CITY FAIRVIEW

9350749

1	ANGER MANAGEMENT
2	JOHNNY ENGLISH
3	EQUILIBRIUM
4	CONFESSIONS OF A DANGEROUS MIND
5	A MAN APART
6	BAYARAN
7	X-MEN 2
8	TILL THERE WAS YOU
9	X-MEN 2
10	WHAT A GIRL WANTS
11	XEREX
12	BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE

SM CITY MANILA

5239240

1	BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE
2	JOHNNY ENGLISH
3	CONFESSIONS OF A DANGEROUS MIND
4	X-MEN 2
5	SOULKEEPER
6	X-MEN 2
7	BAYARAN
8	PINOCCHIO
9	TILL THERE WAS YOU
10	A MAN APART
11	XEREX
12	TILL THERE WAS YOU

SM MEGAMALL

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1	EQUILIBRIUM
2	JOHNNY ENGLISH
3	X-MEN 2
4	CONFESSIONS OF A DANGEROUS MIND
5	PINOCCHIO
6	BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE
7	BAYARAN
8	TILL THERE WAS YOU
9	TILL THERE WAS YOU
10	X-MEN 2
11	SOULKEEPER
12	XEREX

SM CITY NORTH EDSA

9295452

1	NPINOCCHIO
2	X-MEN 2
3	XEREX
4	TILL THERE WAS YOU
5	JOHNNY ENGLISH
6	CONFESSIONS OF A DANGEROUS MIND
7	BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE
8	X-MEN 2

SM SOUTHMALL

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1	PINOCCHIO
2	CONFESSIONS OF A DANGEROUS MIND
3	X-MEN 2
4	BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE
5	TILL THERE WAS YOU
6	SOULKEEPER
7	TILL THERE WAS YOU
8	X-MEN 2
9	XEREX
10	BAYARAN

SM CITY CEBU

2313876

1	X-MEN 2
2	SOLARIS
3	ANGER MANAGEMENT
4	JAILBIRDS
5	XEREX
6	BAYARAN
7	TILL THERE WAS YOU
8	X-MEN 2

SM CITY ILOILO

3209422

1	JAILBIRDS
2	CLOSED
3	TILL THERE WAS YOU
4	KANGAROO JACK
5	X-MEN 2
6	ANGER MANAGEMENT
7	CLOSED
8	BAYARAN

SM CITY PAMPANGA

7128015

1	X-MEN 2
2	A MAN APART
3	TILL THERE WAS YOU
4	BAYARAN
5	PHONE BOOTH
6	TILL THERE WAS YOU

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT

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1	BAYARAN
2	X-MEN 2
3	TILL THERE WAS YOU
4	CONFESSIONS OF A DANGEROUS MIND

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN

2514302

1	X-MEN 2
2	XEREX
3	TILL THERE WAS YOU
4	BAYARAN

SM CITY DAVAO

2976998

1	X-MEN 2
2	X-MEN 2
3	WISHMASTER 4
4	TILL THERE WAS YOU
5	ANGER MANAGEMENT
6	KANGAROO JACK

SM BICUTAN

776-3055

1	X-MEN 2
2	TILL THERE WAS YOU
3	BAYARAN
4	X-MEN 2

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

859-2084

1	SOLARIS
2	TILL THERE WAS YOU
3	ANGER MANAGEMENT
4	X-MEN 2

THE PODIUM CINEMA

18 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center Mandaluyong City

633-8976

1	BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE 11:05 FS/11:35 MF/1:40/3:45/5:50/7:55/ 9:35 LFS/10:00 LMF/11:40 END
2	X2: X-MEN UNITED 11:10 FS/11:40 MF/2:30/5:20/8:10/ 10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/1:20 END

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2	X-MEN2
3	BRINGGING DOWN THE HOUSE
4	PINOCCHIO
5	TILL THERE WAS YOU
6	CONFESSIONS DANGEROUS MIND
7	SOUL KEEPER
8	BAYARAN
9	XEREX
10	JOHNY ENGLISH

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2	SOUL KEEPER
3	BAYARAN
4	BRINGGING DOWN THE HOUSE
5	PINOCCHIO
6	TILL THERE WAS YOU
7	CONFESSIONS DANGEROUD MIND

Metro East - Marcos hway

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1	BRINGGING DOWN THE HOUSE
2	X-MEN 2
3	XEREX
4	CONFESSIONS DANGEROUS MIND
5	X-MEN 2
6	TILL THERE WAS YOU
7	JOHNY ENGLISH
8	BAYARAN

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1	X- MEN 2
2	BRINGGING DOWN THE HOUSE
3	XEREX
4	CONFESSIONS DANEROUS MIND
5	TILL THERE WAS YOU
6	JOHNY ENGLISH
7	ANGER MANAGEMENT
8	BAYARAN

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1	XEREX
2	TILL THERE WAS YOU
3	X-MEN 2
4	BAYARAN

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(045)961-5270

1	X-MEN2
2	PHONE BOOTH
3	BAYARAN
4	TILL THERE WAS YOU
5	RING 2
6	A MAN APART

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471- 8188 / 875- 3838

1	X-MEN 2
2	BRINGGING DOWN THE HOUSE
3	BAYARAN
4	CONFESSIONS DANGEROUS MIND
5	TILL THERE WAS YOU
6	XEREX

Sta. Rosa Laguna

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1	X- MEN 2
2	A MAN APART
3	BAYARAN
4	TILL THERE WAS YOU
5	XEREX

Bacolod

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1	X-MEN 2
2	TILL THERE WAS YOU
3	XEREX
4	ANGER MANAGEMENT
5	KANGAROO JACK
6	SHADOW OF THE VAMPIRE

Iloilo

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1	X-MEN2
2	ANGER MANAGEMENT
3	KANGAROO JACK
4	TILL THERE WAS YOU
5	BAYARAN
6	JAIL BIRDS

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Welcome back, Pat Castillo

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

IN today's column, we lead off by toasting Pat Castillo for deciding to give her singing career another go. The last time we talked to her, Pat said she was focusing on other things, and we urged her to rethink her decision.

We also hoped that she would consider going into musical theater, since Filipino musicals are popular with audiences these days, and need all the talented and experienced performers they can get.

No word form Pat on that yet, but we're happy to hear that she's gone back to singing in clubs again, first with a gig in a five-star hotel lounge, then with a band, and now (since May 6) with the new group called Forte (formed by Chito Ilagan), which is performing at Merk's Bar Bistro at Greenbelt.

Forte will have four more shows at Merk's—on May 16, 24, 27 and 31. Forte has eight musicians, with three frontliners (Pat, her sister Lenny and Jakiri). Call 757-4721.

Bravo, Natalie

When we watched Rowin Atkinson's spy spoof, "Johnny English," we were pleasantly surprised to see singer Natalie Imbruglia playing a female secret agent. Even better, Imbruglia turned in a confident and witty performance that should interest other producers in casting her in their new projects.

It turns out that, although Natalie first made her mark as a singer, she's been wanting to act in the movies for a long time now. That stands to reason, since she looks as good as she sounds.

In "Johnny English," one plays an Interpol agent who is tasked to investigate the movie's villain, Pascal Savage (John Malkovich). When she meets Johnny English, she realizes that he's an inept spy—but, for some strange reason, she finds herself getting steamily attracted to him. Well, the film is a comedy, after all!

'Kontrobersyal'

Buy Abunda's new TV show, "Kontrobersyal," leads off today at 10:30 p.m. on ABS-CBN with an interview with Kris Aquino. Since Boy and Kris co-host "The Buzz," they enjoy a rapport and friendship that should make the interview candid and in-depth.

'Movie Madness'

Globe Gentxt is currently presenting a series of film screenings at The Fort, as a prelude to the 2003 MTV Movie Awards. Dubbed "Movie Madness," the outdoor screenings are free to the public.

Tonight at 8, the film on view is "Spiderman." Other films lined up are: May 16, "Triple XXX"; May 17, "8 Mile," and May 23, "The Ring."

This year's MTV Movie Awards will be held on May 31 at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles, California, USA. Nominees are led by "Spiderman" and "Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers" with five nominations each.

You can watch the LA show live. Try your luck and join Globe Gentxt's promo until May 18: Key in "MTV" on your mobile phone, send to 2910, and answer trivia questions to earn points.

The 2003 MTV Movie Awards will be telecast on MTV Philippines (Channel 4) at 2 p.m. on June 14 and 9 p.m. on June 15.

Martin and Regine in concert

Tonight at the Araneta Coliseum, Martin Nievera and Regine Velasquez will be performing together on the Philippine leg of their acclaimed 2003 World Concert Tour.

The singing stars recently talked to the press about their much-awaited show at a press conference held at T.G.I. Friday's Glorietta, where the staff was thrilled to get to meet their favorite singers in person.

IMBRUGLIA stars in "Johnny English."

CASTILLO. Performing at Merk's on May 16, 24, 27 and 31.

Mother's Day special

On May 11, Richmonde Hotel celebrates Mother's Day with a lavish luncheon buffet at the Richmonde Grill. All mothers will receive a Special momento and are entitled to join a raffle draw. Call 638-7777.

Kroc Nites discounts

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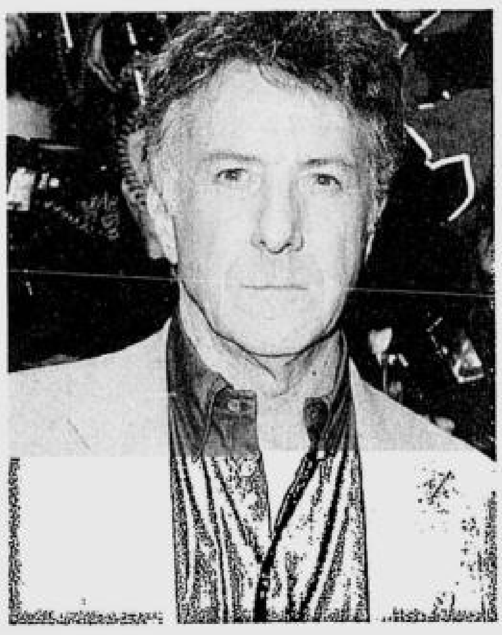


HOFFMAN. Now chooses films that enable him to work with interesting actors and filmmakers.

Hoffman . . .

From page D1

James Foley ("Glengarry Glen Ross"), originally was written for a menacing, 250-pound brute. When they learned Hoffman was interested, Foley and Burns were eager to switch the character to accommodate the compact actor.

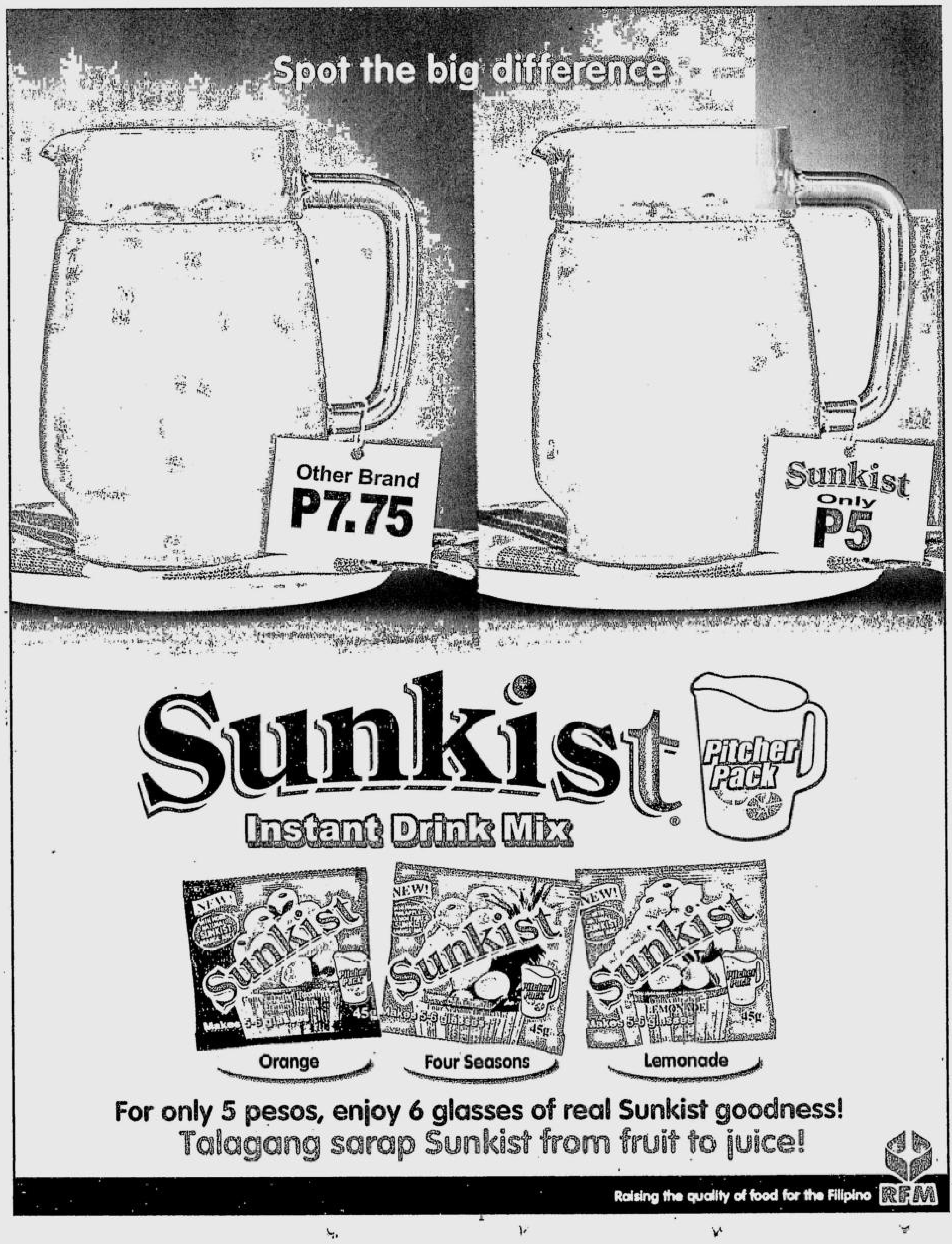
Con movie

"I think the brilliant thing Dustin did was that on the page, that character would sort of intimidate my character physically," Burns said. "But this being a con movie, it's all about mind games, so Dustin figured out ways for his bad guy to mess with people's minds and intimidate them that way."

Hoffman says he has streamlined his criteria for choosing roles nowadays. It's no longer about whom he gets to play but whom he gets to work with, interesting people such as Foley, Depp and "Neverland" director Marc Forster, who made "Monster's Ball."

"There are huge mistakes in life, and I realized one of mine was that I should have worked with a lot of people that I had a chance to work with in the past but didn't," Hoffman says. "I just said, I'm not even going to look at the script anymore, or the part. I want to get in the room with people I want to work with . . . That's my only criterion now."

AP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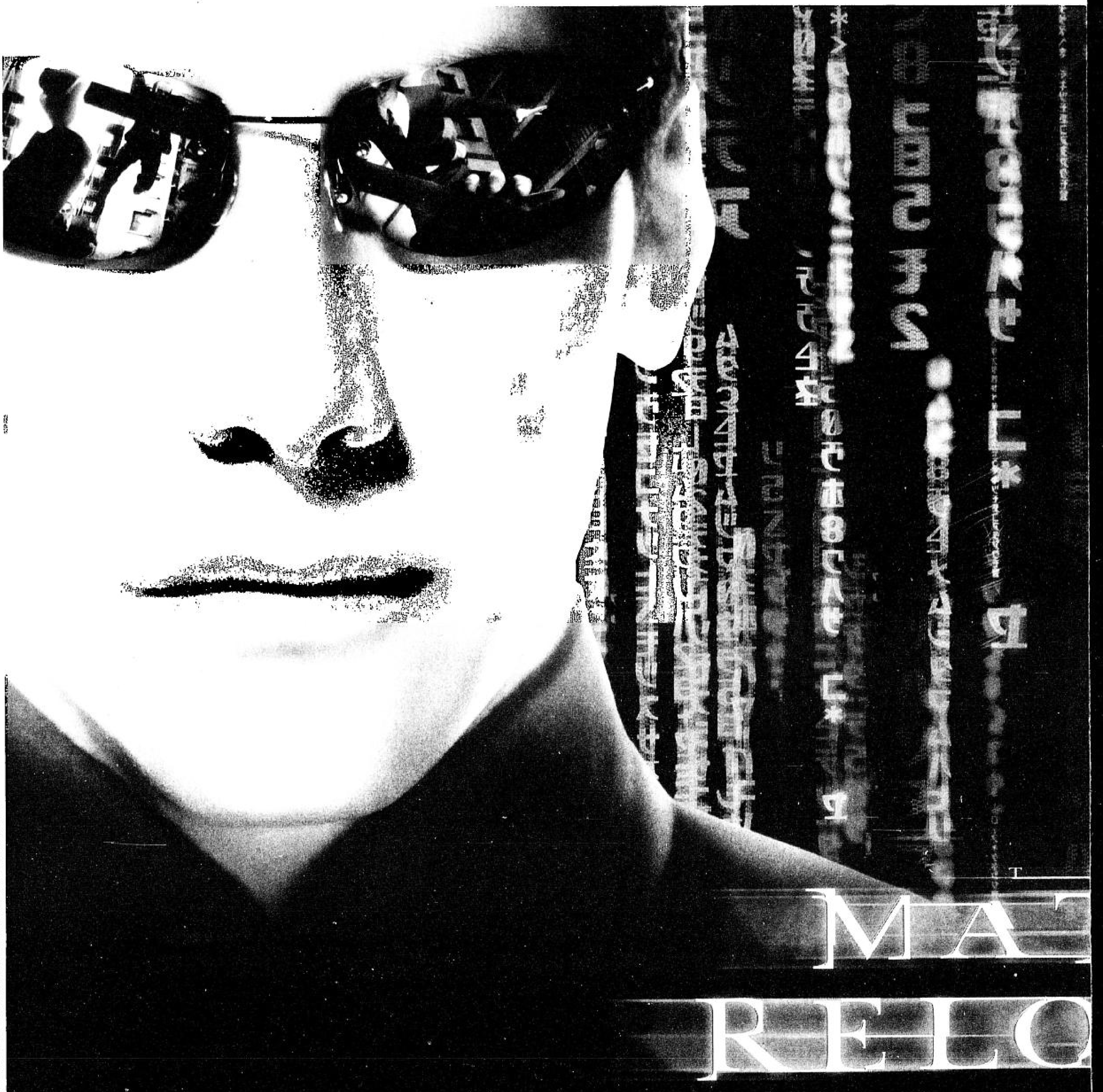

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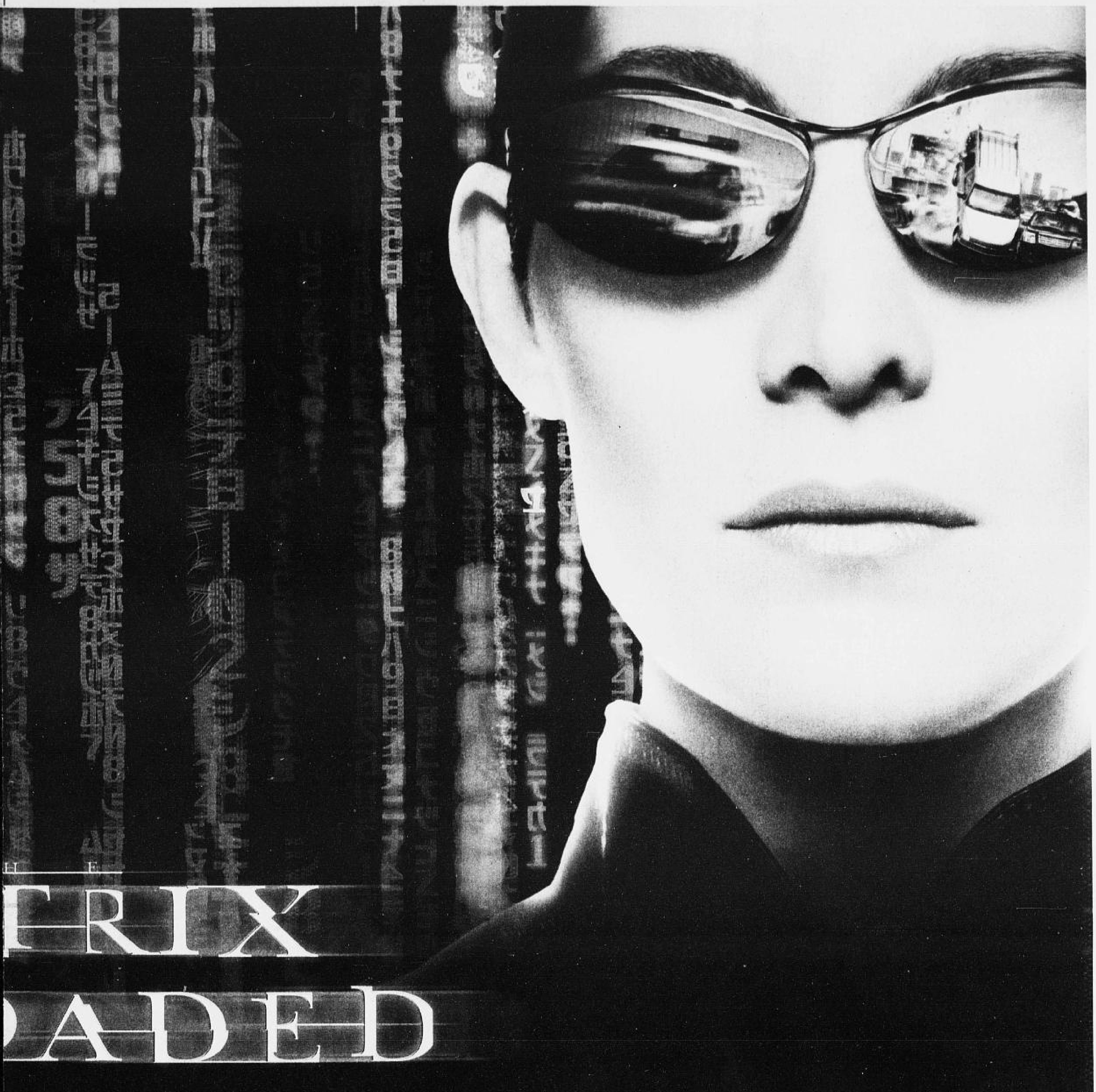

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Curtain up on energetic revival of 'Gypsy'

By Michael Kuchwara

NEW YORK—Broadway musicals don't get much better than "Gypsy."

These days, the only questions are how can any revival negotiate the show's superb score and emotion-packed story, not to mention cast the gargantuan leading role of Rose, the theater's ultimate stage mother.

Classic status

Very well, indeed, judging from the latest production, which opened Thursday last week at the Shubert Theater. Directed by Sam Mendes and starring a surprising Bernadette Peters, it reconfirms the musical's classic status and its appeal as good, old-fashioned entertainment.

From the first four notes of the overture—which lyrically spell out the theme of the show ("I had a dream")—to the evening's blazing finale of "Rose's Turn," "Gypsy" never lets up. And neither does Mendes' production.

"Gypsy" is very much about drive—and that rhythmic energy is present in Jule Styne's pulsating music, Stephen Sondheim's punchy, rat-tat-tat lyrics and Arthur Laurents' tough, muscular book that strikes the right balance between high drama and low comedy.

Obsessive mother

At the center of this creation is Rose, the obsessive mother of two little girls she is determined to push into the slowly dying world of vaudeville. Rose's dreams propel the evening, no matter if they end up nearly destroying herself and those around her.

To play this considerable creature, you need a performer capable of taking center stage and holding it against all odds. Peters is a theater star, but not one you would automatically associate with Rose. Several of her Broadway predecessors, such as Ethel Merman and Tyne Daly, barreled their way through the role on a wave of lung power and a blast of brass.

BERNADETTE Peters stars as Rose, the ultimate stage mother, in Sam Mendes' restaging of "Gypsy." AP

Peters, sporting a modest, marcel hairdo, bee-stung lips and clingy dresses, is equally determined but in a quiet, more subtle way. Her Rose is slyly sexual, especially when it will get her what she wants. And her relationship with Herbie, the goodhearted candy salesman turned agent, suggests genuine heat.

The actress pushes a bit in the show's more dramatic scenes, but she knows how to sing the score. Her voice doesn't have the iron-lunged quality of a Merman, but it can more than handle the musical roars of defiance—"Everything's Coming Up Roses" and "Rose's Turn"—that end each of the show's two acts.

Just as important, Peters knows how to use the musical's silences. Watch her at two crucial points in the show: first, as she reads a letter from daughter June, announcing she has run out on their faltering vaudeville act; second, when Rose realizes she has a chance to push her gawky daughter, Louise, into a star spot, even though it is in a second-rate burlesque house in Kansas. There's a steely quality here that Peters gets with icy accuracy, a single-mindedness that really defines who Rose is. *AP*

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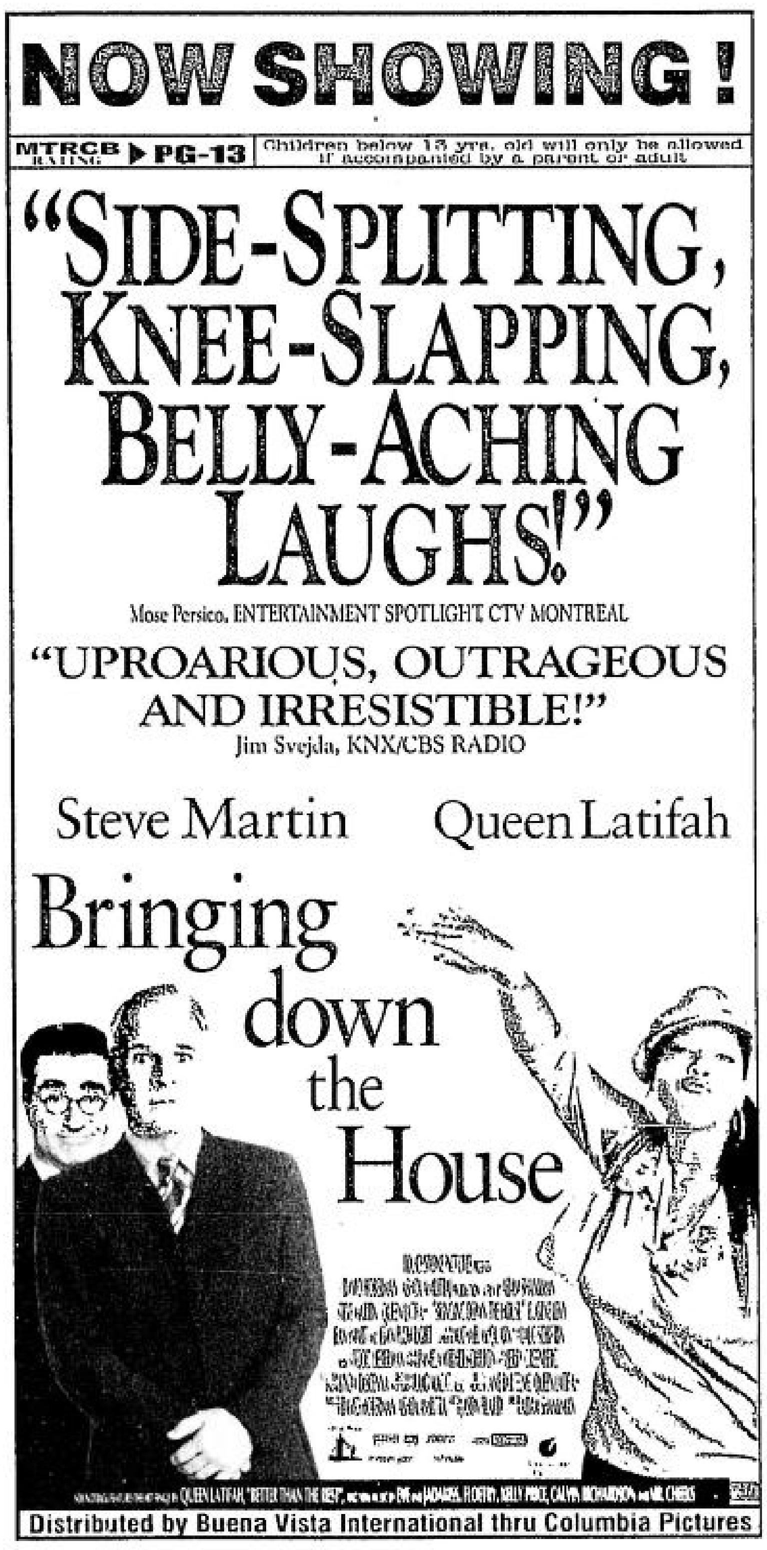
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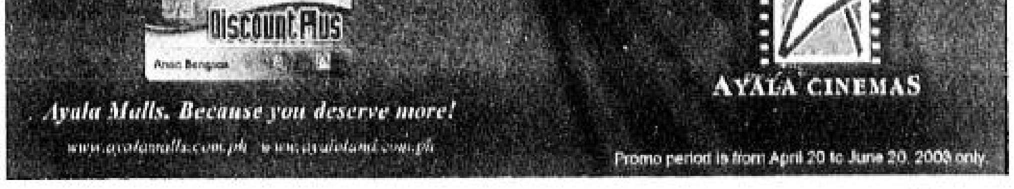
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Hooray for Hollywood, says London's theaterland

PERRY. Loves the exhilaration of bei freed from th shackles Tinsel

By Paul Majendie

LONDON—London's theaterland is proving an irresistible lure for Hollywood stars happy to abandon their luxury trailers and work for a pittance.

Wages

The latest in town is "Friends" star Matthew Perry who takes to the stage in a revival of David Mamet's "Sexual Perversity in Chicago." He is certainly not here for the money. The wages from the West End run won't even pay for the London penthouse he is renting. But Perry, reputed to earn $1 million per episode of "Friends," is not too worried about his bank balance.

For the 33-year-old star who plays wise-cracking Chandler Bing in "Friends," the acting is the thing in London, "In television or a movie I bring my own ego and consequently can mess up. In theater I learnt very quickly to shut up and listen. Now I am able to get out of my own way," he told The Evening Standard newspaper.

Like a string of Hollywood stars before him, Perry loves the exhilaration of being freed from the shackles of Tinseltown to take control of their own acting.

Peers

A spell in one of the world's most famous theater capitals also gives them "street cred" with their peers back home and can boost their box office value.

Success however is not assured. Some triumph, but some trip up when they tread the boards in London.

Gwyneth Paltrow and Kevin Spacey won rave reviews. Nicole Kidman was hailed as "Pure Theatrical Viagra" and Jessica Lange was garlanded with plaudits.

But Madonna and "X Files" star Gillian Anderson were slaughtered by many critics.

Matt Wolf, theater critic for the Hollywood trade paper Variety, doubts however that the critics will staunch the flow of stars.

"I don't think the allure of London will ever fade," he told Reuters. "I am sure the trend will continue, given the fact that Gillian Anderson got excoriating reviews but still played four months.

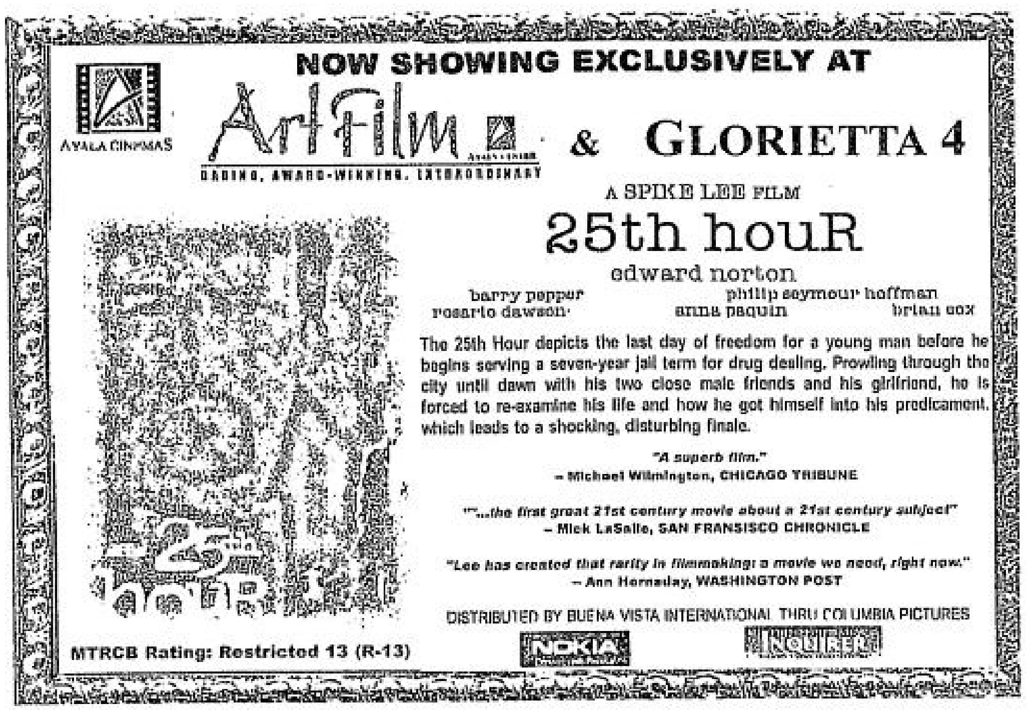
Relative novice

"And if you are a relative novice to theater, where better to begin than London? I don't think Matthew Perry has ever done a play professionally."

Critic and broadcaster Ruth Leon agreed that performances from the Hollywood stars had been patchy.

"Gwyneth Paltrow was absolutely terrific as was Kevin Spacey. Some like Madonna really can't do it and the entertainment value with her came from watching the security men at the side of the stage," she said.

"I think the stars come over here because there is no risk," she told Reuters. "If you are a huge success in London theater, then you can go back to New York and say 'I sold out a London theater.' If you fail over here, nobody really notices back in Hollywood." *Reuters*



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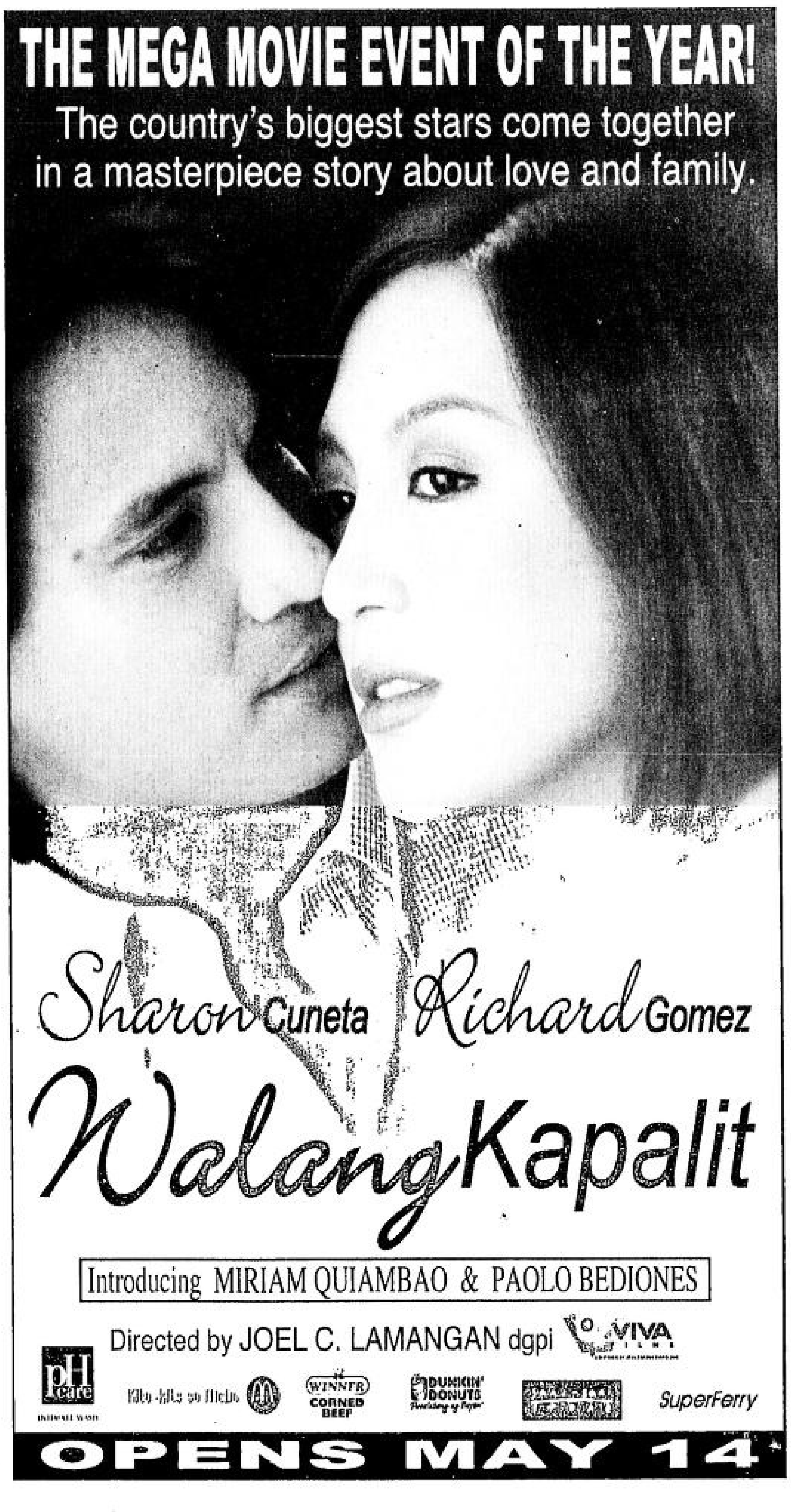

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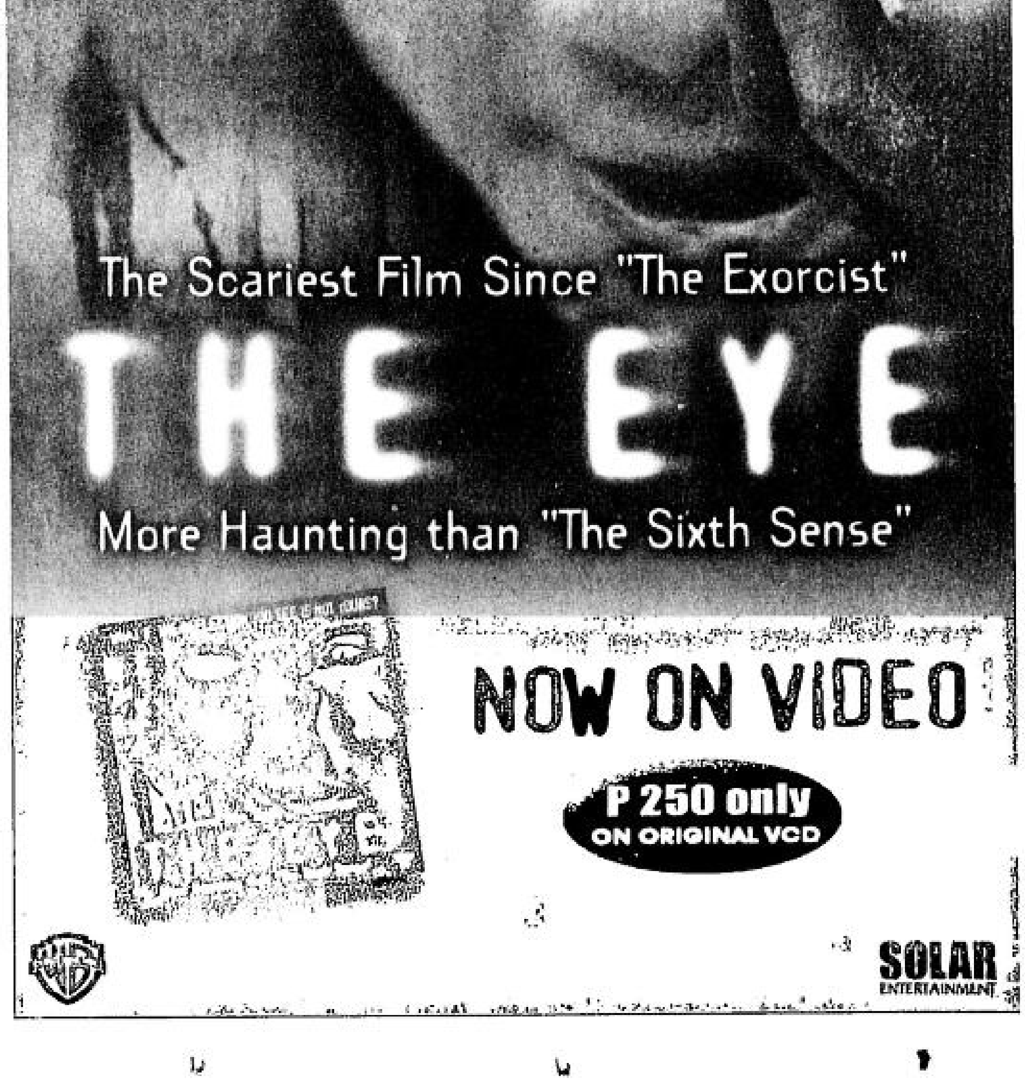

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Hooray for Hollywood, says London's theaterland

By Paul Majendie

LONDON—London's theaterland is proving an irresistible lure for Hollywood stars happy to abandon their luxury trailers and work for a pittance.

Wages

The latest in town is "Friends" star Matthew Perry who takes to the stage in a revival of David Mamet's "Sexual Perversity in Chicago." He is certainly not here for the money. The wages from the West End run won't even pay for the London penthouse he is renting. But Perry, reputed to earn $1 million per episode of "Friends," is not too worried about his bank balance.

For the 33-year-old star who plays wise-cracking Chandler Bing in "Friends," the acting is the thing in London, "In television or a movie I bring my own ego and consequently can mess up. In theater I learnt very quickly to shut up and listen. Now I am able to get out of my own way," he told The Evening Standard newspaper.

Like a string of Hollywood stars before him, Perry loves the exhilaration of being freed from the shackles of Tinseltown to take control of their own acting.

Peers

A spell in one of the world's most famous theater capitals also gives them "street cred" with their peers back home and can boost their box office value.

Success however is not assured. Some triumph, but some trip up when they tread the boards in London.

Gwyneth Paltrow and Kevin Spacey won rave reviews. Nicole Kidman was hailed as "Pure Theatrical Viagra" and Jessica Lange was garlanded with plaudits.

But Madonna and "X Files" star Gillian Anderson were slaughtered by many critics.

Matt Wolf, theater critic for the Hollywood trade paper Variety, doubts however that the critics will staunch the flow of stars.

"I don't think the allure of London will ever fade," he told Reuters. "I am sure the trend will continue, given the fact that Gillian Anderson got excoriating reviews but still played four months.

Relative novice

"And if you are a relative novice to theater, where better to begin than London? I don't think Matthew Perry has ever done a play professionally."

Critic and broadcaster Ruth Leon agreed that performances from the Hollywood stars had been patchy.

"Gwyneth Paltrow was absolutely terrific as was Kevin Spacey. Some like Madonna really can't do it and the entertainment value with her came from watching the security men at the side of the stage," she said.

"I think the stars come over here because there is no risk," she told Reuters. "If you are a huge success in London theater, then you can go back to New York and say 'I sold out a London theater.' If you fail over here, nobody really notices back in Hollywood." *Reuters*

PERRY. Loves the exhilaration of bei[ng] freed from th[e] shackles of Tinseltown

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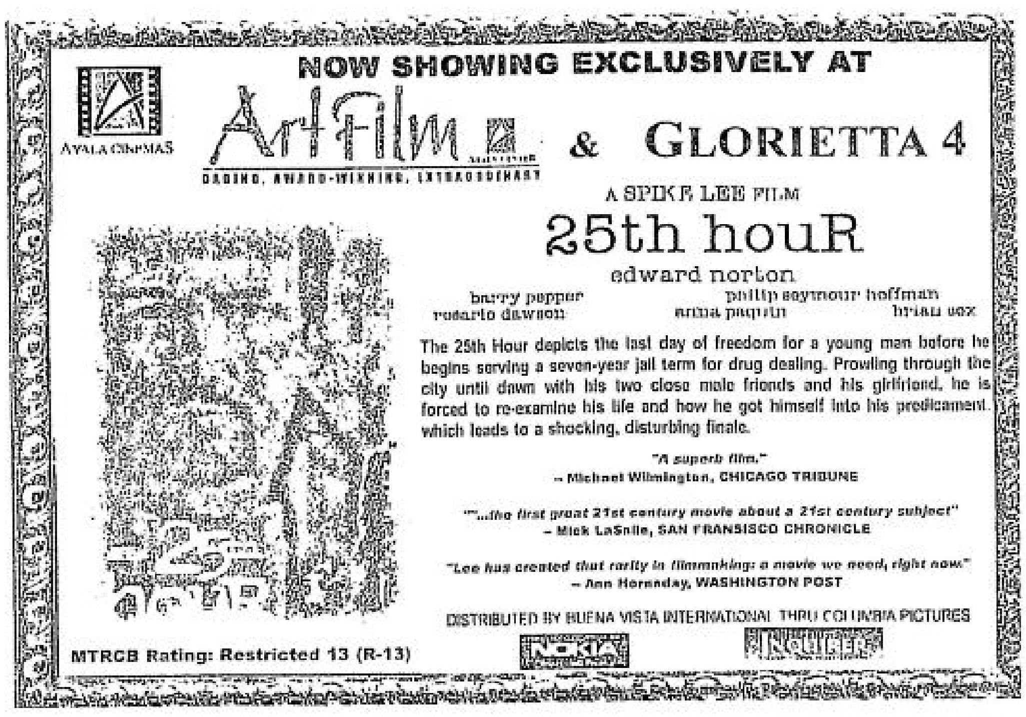
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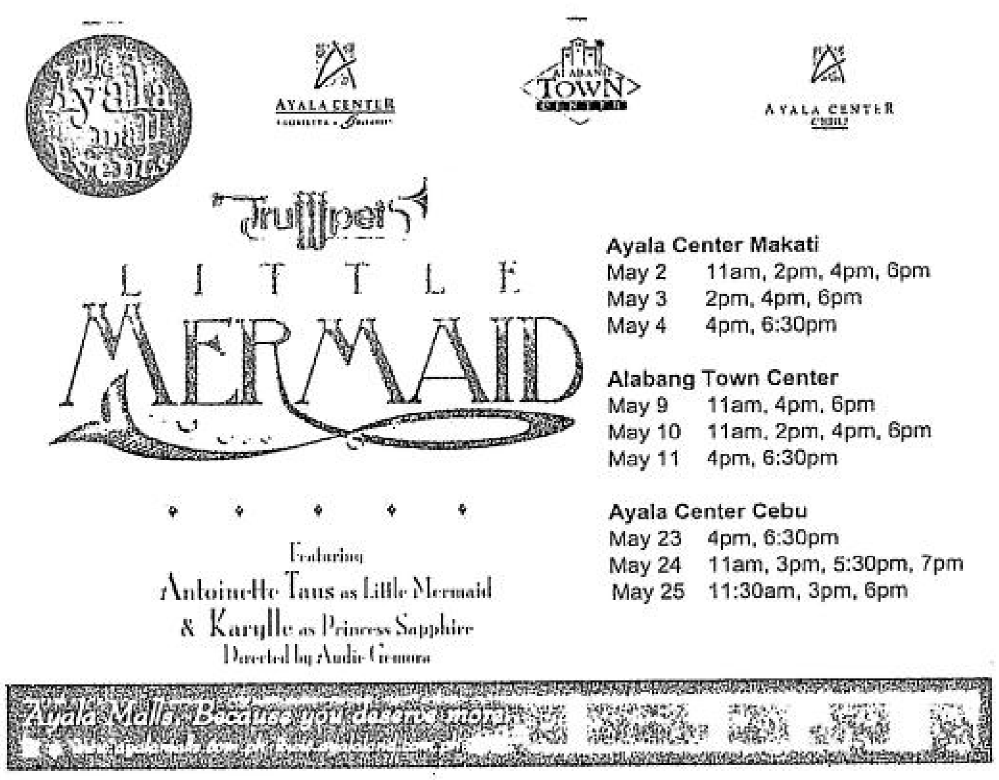
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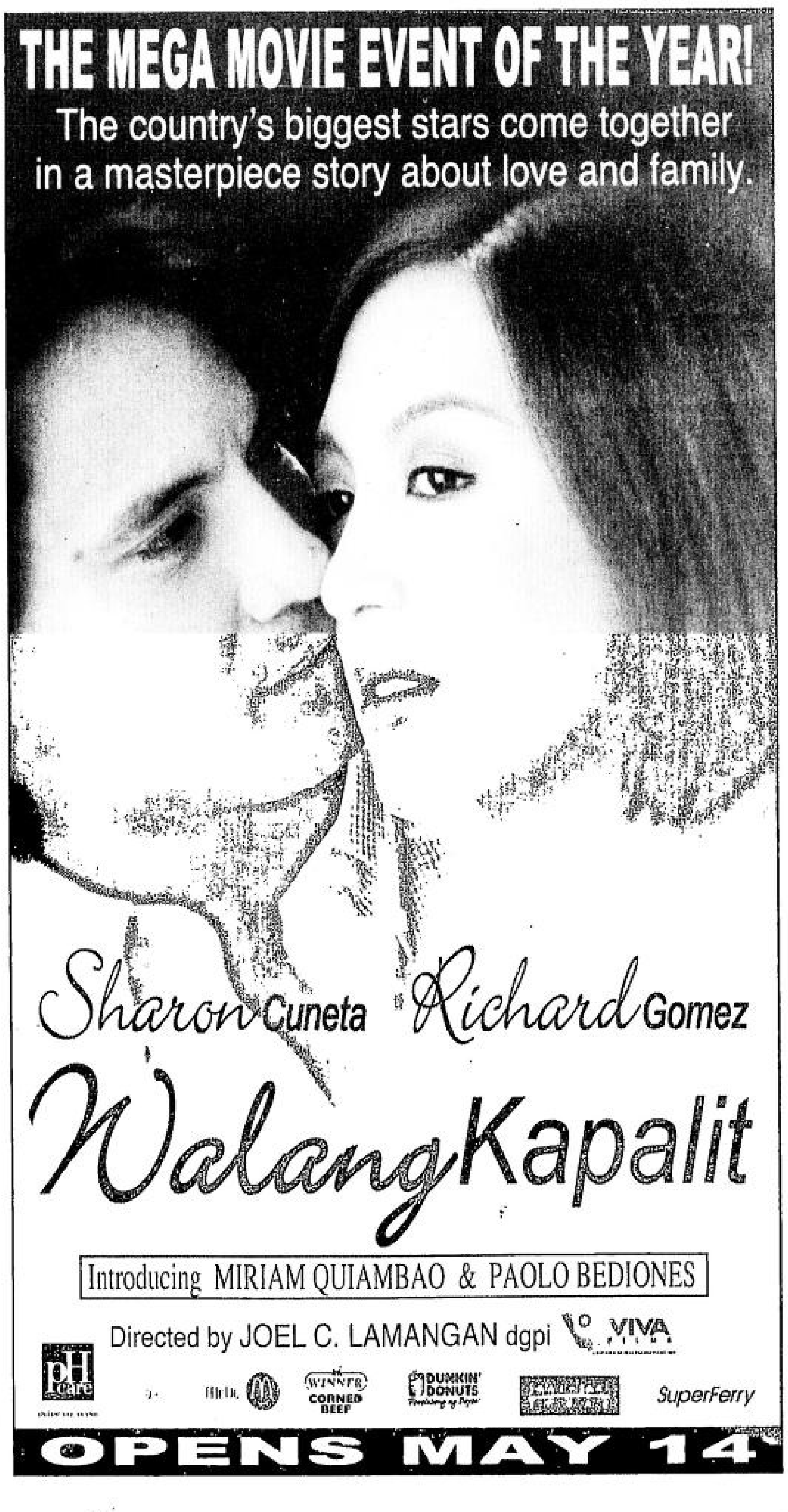
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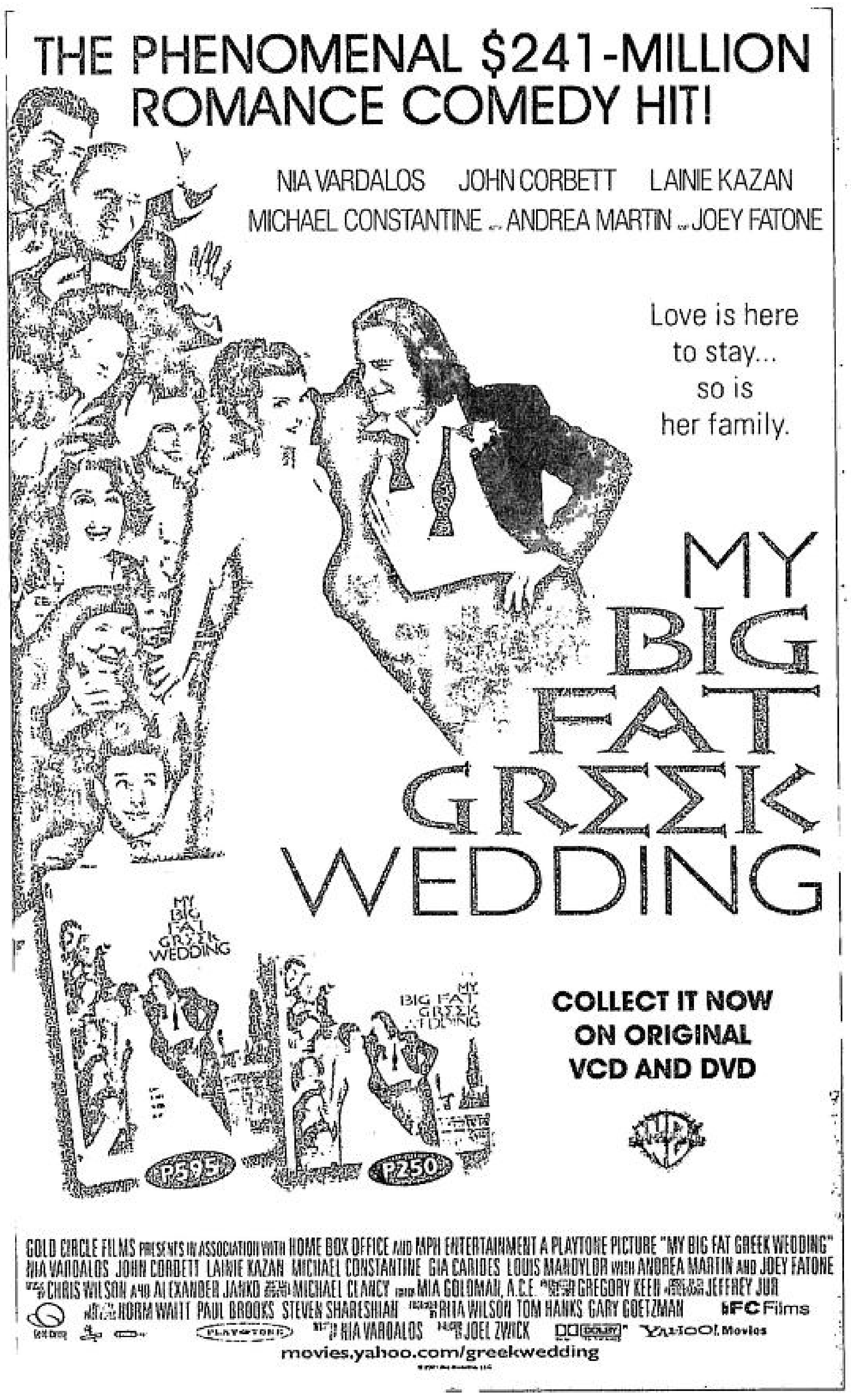
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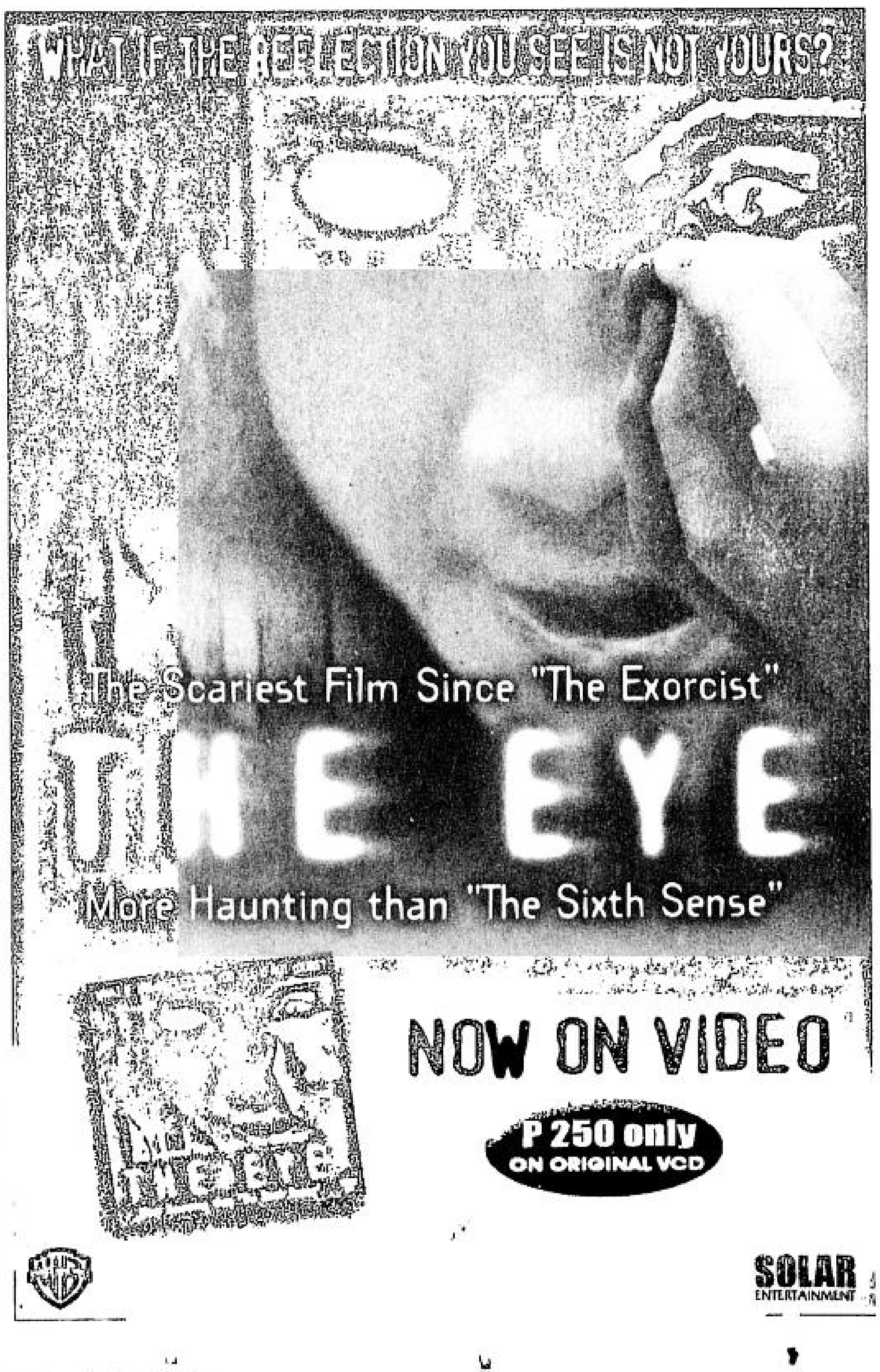
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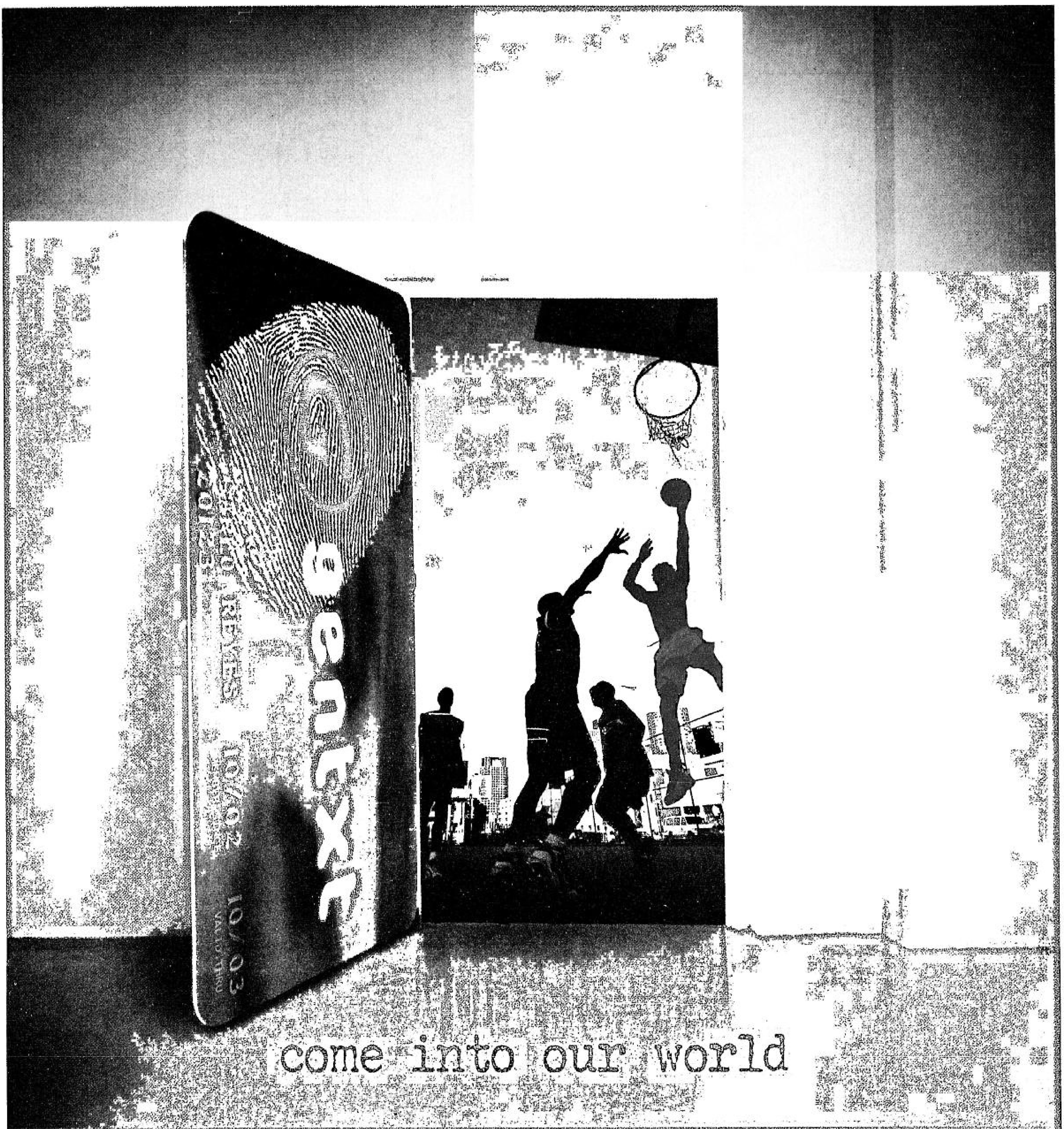

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May 3-9, 2 ... 4pm **Gentxt Nights @ DISH Rockwell Power Plant**
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May 11 & 18 8pm **Woman In Black by Repertory Philippines @ Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza, Makati**
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May 9-23 **Movie Madness @ The Fort**
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May 9: The Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring
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May 31 **MTV Movie Awards Live in L.A.**
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SATURDAY Special

Younger comedians hit the spot with viewers

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

OUR Q and A this week:

From Anthony John Mirona of Taytay, **"I love watching comedies. Can you feature our more popular comedians, like Mike Myers, Adam Sandler, etc? How and when did they learn they were funny? It would be interesting to know what they went through to get to where they are now."**

For a lot of actors, comedy is tough. You either have what it takes to make your audience laugh or you totally depend on well-written scripts to make laughter-inducing situations work!

Toilet humor

In the movies, some actors push the stakes by resorting to "toilet humor." Jim Carrey transcended barriers to reach the apex of the Hollywood hierarchy by initially dishing out inane, very physical flicks ("Ace Ventura," etc.) before experimenting with dark, edgy and well-received comedies ("Liar, Liar;" "The Truman Show;" "Man on the Moon;" "The Grinch"), with mixed commercial success. But a number of other comedic talents are slowly inching their way to the top with their own brand of humor.

Mike Myers is probably the comedian closest to Carrey's big-star status, though he doesn't have Carrey's lopsided good looks. The 39-year-old British-Canadian actor, best known for his "Austin Powers" franchise, honed his craft by spending six years on the "Saturday Night Live" gag show.

Mainstream popularity

The 5'7" actor first attained mainstream popularity when "Wayne's World" ('92) tickled audiences on its way to the top of the box-office charts. He tried to veer away from his usual shtick in "54," ('98) with relative success. He has been married to wife Robin Ruzan for 10 years now.

Next on his plate is his turn as The Cat in the film version of Dr. Seuss' "The Cat in the Hat." His consistency at the tills was further cemented by the impressive success of "Shrek" (2001), for which he earned $3 million as the voice of the green-skinned monster. The "Shrek" sequel will make him $10 million richer.

The three "Austin Powers" films saw his fee skyrocket from $3 million to $7 million to $25 million (*plus* 21 percent of the film's gross)!

He is known for *not* liking to be touched—a trait that causes problems when hugging and kissing scenes have to be filmed. This is quite surprising for a comic who is seen wearing his undies in a lot of scenes in his "Austin Powers" movies. His favorite character in the franchise is Dr. Evil. His least favorite: Fat Bastard.

Parents

Ben Stiller, on the other hand, is regarded as a "cerebral" comic, and is known for well-written dark comedies like "Flirting with Disaster." His parents are legendary comedians, Jerry Stiller and Anne Meara. The 5'8" actor began shooting films at age 8. Their plots were always about a shy, awkward boy who was picked on all the time by bullies, but got his eventual revenge.

This desire for revenge on popular, good-looking people may have motivated him to make the teen-angst cult classic, "Reality Bites," starring Winona Ryder and Ethan Hawke, which he directed and starred in.

Before he got his start in Hollywood, he put in several solid years in theater, and appeared in the Tony-winning "The House of Blue Leaves."

While doing the play, he shot a spoof of the Tom Cruise and Paul Newman starrer, "The Color of Money," called "The Hustler of Money," with him in the Cruise role. The spoof was so funny that "Saturday Night Live" purchased it and hired him to do the show for a year.

His big-screen debut was in Spielberg's "Empire of the Sun" ('87). His first big-budget directing gig was Carrey's "The Cable Guy," which impressed the critics, but not Jim's fans. "There's Something About Mary" (with Cameron Diaz) propelled him to mainstream popularity. The rest ("Zoolander," "The Royal Tenenbaums") is history.

Next movies

His next movies are: "Duplex" (with Drew Barrymore); "Envy" (with Jack Black); and "Starsky and Hutch" (with Owen Wilson). He married model Christine Taylor in May 2000, after being engaged for years to actress Jeanne Tripplehorn. He is a major fan of Tom Cruise, who included his spoof, "Mission: Improbable," in the "Mission: Impossible" DVD.

Two other comic actors worthy of mention here are Adam Sandler ("Anger Management;" "The Wedding Singer;" "Punch Drunk Love;" "Big Daddy") and Filipino-American actor Rob Schneider ("Deuce Bigalow;" "The Animal;" "The Hot Chick").

Adam won critical acclaim for "Punch-Drunk Love" (2002) but also won a Razzie for Worst Actor for "Big Daddy" (2000).

He was paid $25 million against 25 percent of the gross for the currently showing blockbuster, "Anger Management."

Trivia: Adam was a former MTV VJ ("Remote Control," 1988), and holds the record for most copies sold by a comedy album in its first week. The album, "Stan and Judy's Kid," debuted at No. 16 on the Billboard charts.

On the other hand, the 5'5" Schneider has a Filipino mother, formerly a kindergarten teacher, who now presides over the town school board. He got his big break when he appeared in David Letterman's show in 1987. He honed his craft in San Francisco comedy clubs, opening for the likes of Jay Leno and Jerry Seinfeld.

"Saturday Night Live" discovered him during HBO's "13th Annual Young Comedians' Special" in 1990. Rob is said to have 50 celebrity impersonations and odd voices in his repertoire.

From Dr. Jen Uy of East Ave. Medical Center: **"Please feature updates on 'Early Edition's' Kyle Chandler. I want to know everything about him. Has he made any films? Does he also dabble in theater?"**

We featured Kyle last year, so we will just give you updates and some little-known trivia about the 37-year-old, 6'1" actor from New York:

He has appeared and starred in well-received TV series—"Tour of Duty" (1990); "Homefront" (1991); "Early Edition" (1996-2000) and "What About Joan" (2001-02).

Small screen

While it is true that Kyle is not seen on the small screen in the US these days, it won't be

YOUNGER/ E2

CARREY. Started in inane flicks before experimenting with dark, edgy comedies.

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'Smallville' offers many surprises and ironies

By Mona Gonzalez

SUPERBOY without a supertot's costume? Well, that's just one of the many ironies you'll see on "Smallville," aired Tuesdays, 9 p.m. on Channel 23. Smallville is Superboy's hometown. But where's the signature wear?

Leotards

True, some people poked fun at Superman's leotards (especially since he wore his briefs outside!). But for kids back then, the blue and red leotard (yes, the briefs, too) spelled fascination. Especially the red cape (I used to think it made him fly, like a parachute).

So how do you tell your five-year-old, new millennial nephew that Superboy—minus the garb—is not even called by his name? In Smallville he is simply "Clark."

And get this—Lex Luthor, who was always Superman's most powerful rival and arch enemy, is now Clark's good friend. He even appears sympathetic—with a cold, distant father, and deprived of the warmth of a wholesome family.

Virile couple

More changes: Lana Lang, the vampy redhead, appears cutesy in "Smallville." Clark loses the dorky glasses and gets a pretty boy look (he looks even prettier than Lana). And his parents have changed—from the grey-haired, genteel, elderly Kents of the comics to an attractive, baby-boomer and virile couple. They, childless? Must be family planning.

The actress who plays Mrs. Kent in "Smallville" once played the vampy Lana in the "Superman" movie which starred Christopher Reeves. What's more, the Kents are now more fleshed out. The father is protective, opinionated and sometimes ornery, while the mother is warm, but can be feisty.

Have you ever heard of "The Superman Curse?" Probably not, because it's a concept I invented. You see, in the first Superman TV show of my childhood, the actor committed suicide—shot himself with a gun. After that, I recall another Superman actor who died violently, too.

And many of us know how Christopher Reeve was disabled after a horseback-riding accident. Seems the curse even extended to co-stars: The actress from the same movie who played Lois Lane had a breakdown and spent some time in a mental institution.

Superboys were luckier. Actor Dean Cain from a previous Superboy series is now hosting the television show, "Believe It or Not." He looks a bit nerdy (like a real Clark Kent) and has lost the glam look, but is doing a good hosting job. Now we have pretty boy Clark, in a show with so many transformations and reinventions that one can get lost watching it.

"SMALLVILLE." Lana Lang, Clark Kent and Lex Luthor like we've never seen them before.

Powers

For example, in the comic book, Superman had his powers from the time he was a tot. As a baby he had super strength, super intelligence, super speed, super x-ray vision, super heat vision, and he could fly.

In "Smallville," Clark is slowly discovering his powers. (In one episode he suspected he could fly when he was sucked up in a tornado.) Now, back to that costume: Baby boomers know that Superboy's costume was made from the red and blue blanket that was wrapped around him when he rocketed to Earth on his spaceship.

But young people today don't know that.

I carefully explained to my 11-year-old daughter that Clark's mother sewed Superboy's costume. She asked, "So, how did the costume fit him when he grew up?" I did what many people do when fact is not commensurate to circumstances: I fibbed: I said, "Super stretch!"

In every previous Superman or Superboy show or movie, the focus and main drawing power had always been the super powers. But in "Smallville" those powers seem almost incidental.

Interplay

Instead, greater emphasis is placed on the interplay between the show's characters, and largely on the conflict of a young man wrestling with his secret powers—the hazards, if you will, of having to lead a double life not of your own choosing.

In fact, "Smallville" is a little bit like "Dawson's Creek" (nice boy, frustrated love); like "Charmed" (secret powers, fights only similarly powered creatures whom they always manage to find); like "Gilmore Girls" (small town, nice people); and like "Beverly Hills 90210" (some angst, with great potential to evolve into a soap opera when ratings threaten to dip.)

One distinction: the characters

'SMALLVILLE'/ E3

Pio de Castro III remembered

By Nestor U. Torre

SOME weeks ago, we joined other friends of the late actor and director Pio de Castro III at a church in Magallanes for the entombment of his ashes at a beautiful columbary. The observance was lovingly organized by Pio's widow, Joy Soler de Castro, who is now working in Singapore. She flew in specifically to make all the arrangements for the moving rites.

Heartening

It was heartening to see so many people at the entombment rites. We should all be so lucky and loved to have as many loyal friends as Pio has.

But then, Pio was a dear and caring friend to many people, so it's no surprise that he's so lovingly remembered.

Then, too, there's the fact that so many of us admire Joy for her being such a devoted wife, caregiver and helpmeet throughout the many years Pio spent in a coma, and even now as his loving widow.

Indeed, Joy's abiding and selfless love for Pio is one of the most beautiful, courageous and inspiring love stories we know. It should really be written about in detail to inspire other people beyond Pio and Joy's circle of family members and friends.

THE 1971 production of Paul Dumol's "Paglilitis ni Mang Serapio" featured (from left) Soxy Topacio, Pio de Castro III, and Lutgardo Labad.

Exceptional friend

We continue to remember Pio also because he was such a gifted film director, and such a good stage actor. As a person, he was an exceptional friend.

I remember the time when we were both at the Ateneo. I had an apartment right in front of the campus, but I was so busy from morning till night that I wasn't able to keep it tidy. Frankly, it looked like a tornado had *refused* to go through it.

Well, one night, when I got home, I was in for a big surprise: during the day, Pio and some other friends had taken it upon themselves to clean and refurnish my messy little serpent's nest. I was utterly bowled over by their generous act of friendship, and also humbled and grateful!

Pio's other colleagues have their own wonderful stories to tell—about his brilliance, thoughtfulness, generosity, and many other qualities that made him such a good friend.

Even when he was in a coma, they felt that he was still participating in his own way in their seemingly one-way "conversations."

Others even believe that they benefited more from their visits to him than he did, since his physical condition motivated them to rethink their own personal priorities, views on life, "usefulness," etc.

Entombment

Instructively, Pio's having been in a coma made his passing transpire with less of a sense of finality than other people's deaths. His recent entombment prompted a clearer change of attitude in this regard, but we feel that, in many ways, Pio is still with us.

The novena prayers for him say it best: "Life is eternal, life is immortal, and death is only a horizon—and a horizon is nothing but the limit of our sight."

With Joy so sweetly reminding us from time to time, we will remember Pio for many years to come.

STILLER, SANDLER AND SCHNEIDER. Have established themselves as bankable comedy film stars in their own right.

Younger comedians hit the spot with viewers

From page E1

long before his fans will see him again. Recently, he was added to the cast of the Rob Lowe-produced legal drama, "The Lyon's Den," as a lawyer who resents the presence of a new lawyer (Lowe), which will premiere in September this year on NBC.

"Early Edition," the show he is most known for here, about a guy who gets his newspaper a day earlier, wrapped up after four years and 90 episodes. He won a Saturn Best Actor Award in 1997 for his performance in the series.

Films

He has appeared in a few films: "Pure Country," "Mulholland Falls" (with Nick Nolte) and "Angel's Dance" (with James Belushi). He is married to TV writer Katherine Kyl (yes, that's her name) and has two daughters.

He dabbles in theater occasionally. As a theater major at the University of Georgia, he starred in productions of "A Comedy of Errors," "The Devil's Disciple," and "Oklahoma!" (yes, he sings, too!).

His professional Broadway theater debut, as Hal Carter in "Picnic," earned him an Outer Critics Circle award for Best Actor.

Kyle held odd jobs before he hit the bigtime. He laughingly recalls, "On my first 18 months in LA, I poured beer and sold souvenirs at the Museum of Natural History. So I know more things about dinosaurs than most 'Jurassic Park' junkies."

But there was one job he knew he wasn't good at—Kyle worked in a night club called "The Palace" as a, hold your breath, bouncer! "Now *that* didn't work out," he sighs.

MANDY (left) with her children— Julia, Imogen, Amanda and (front) Kert.

Endless patience, selfless love

STREET SMART

Mandy Navaserò

ONE DAY, my oldest daughter blurted out to me: "Mom, you have endless patience!" Well, if I have that, millions of "real" mothers all over the world have it, too.

Little girls

Because, if little girls are made of sugar and spice and everything nice, I think mothers are made of *patience*. If at the beginning all mothers can think of is a child's "age of terrible twos," that episode pales when your child reaches teenhood. Because all at once, only the most dire and the most sublime events seem to happen during this phase in a child's life.

Try first kiss, first dance, first love letter, first date, first cigarette, first break-up, first time to get drunk, and on to many more firsts! Some events can be more than just memorable, they can be downright tragic, and no matter what a mom does, she can never make it right for her little boy or girl ever again.

What carries a mother through all the high and lows of her child's life, no matter how many children she has? Endless patience. A mother's other name may well be masochist. Mothers just go through the pains, eyes wide open.

Major upheaval

When her child is bullied in school and called ugly names, when her child fails a big exam, or goes through a major upheaval, a mother simply grits her teeth and summons up all the comforting words she knows. She then rolls up her sleeves to tackle her child's problem, taxing her ingenuity to come up with solutions, minor or major, but solutions nonetheless. *Sometimes* they work.

And if a mother has four children like I do, and they are girls and boys, just like mine, then she has to be creative times four—or more.

Some mothers can be saints, even unorthodox and non-traditional ones like me. I simply try my best to bring up my children the best way I know how.

JULIA delivered Tyler at Makati Medical by C-section, attended by Dr. Rebecca Singson.

I know I won't earn any gold medals for my efforts and I may not even stand up to scrutiny. I have been told many times that I am not doing things right, that I may be out of the norm. But in my own get-up-and-go and gung-ho way, I love my children and I only want the best for them. I hope I can make the major hurts in their lives go away, and I hope that I can always give them the best in life.

Sometimes, I ponder on what my life would be without them. Very different, of course. I needn't scrimp and save and slave to death for tuition fees and uniforms, and a host of other concerns. I could be summering in Boracay or gadding about in New York in autumn. I could be anywhere, living the good life.

Connection

But probably not with a lot of meaning in my life. Because, despite what mothers complain

ENDLESS/ E3

CUMMING. Plays blue-skinned mutant named Nightcrawler in "X2: X-Men United." AP

Blue mutant promotes tolerance

LOS ANGELES—Alan Cumming says he took the part of a blue-skinned mutant called Nightcrawler in "X2: X-Men United" for a number of reasons.

Other cultures

For one, the gay Scottish actor says he approves of the movie's message.

"I really liked the message in the film that we need to be more tolerant and understanding of other cultures different than ours and not to think because they are different they are bad," said Cumming, 38.

Adaptation

He takes roles in major studio films such as "X2" and "Spy Kids," Cumming said, so he can finance his more offbeat projects. They include writing an adaptation of his novel, "Tommy's Tale," and producing plays for his theater company, the Art Party.

Deposits

"I have this thing I call the Hollywood bank," Cumming said. "You have to make deposits sometimes so you can make withdrawals so you can do little films or write a play."

Besides his own projects, Cumming is starring in a television show he hopes will make the ABC midseason lineup next year. He described "Mr. and Mr. Nash," about a crime-fighting couple, as a gay "Hart to Hart."

Corpses

"It's two interior designers and there are corpses everywhere," he said. "It's funny and witty and kind of groundbreaking because it will be the first program on American network TV that has gay characters and their gayness is secondary to what the show is about." *AP*

Endless . . .

From page E2

about all the time—losing their identity, not having enough time for themselves, not enough sleep, no time for the beauty parlor, not having money to spare for their own personal needs, not being able to go on private getaways—in the end, we love our children because they and their myriad concerns effect a connection to the real world, keep us anchored, sane in a way, level-headed, practical. Children keep us real!

Which is why most of us say we can probably give up our mates, but not our children. That we would fight to the death for them. Even mother animals protect their young before themselves. Selfless Love, Endless Patience. Or vice versa. That's what mothers are made of. Even off-the-wall ones like me.

Family pictures

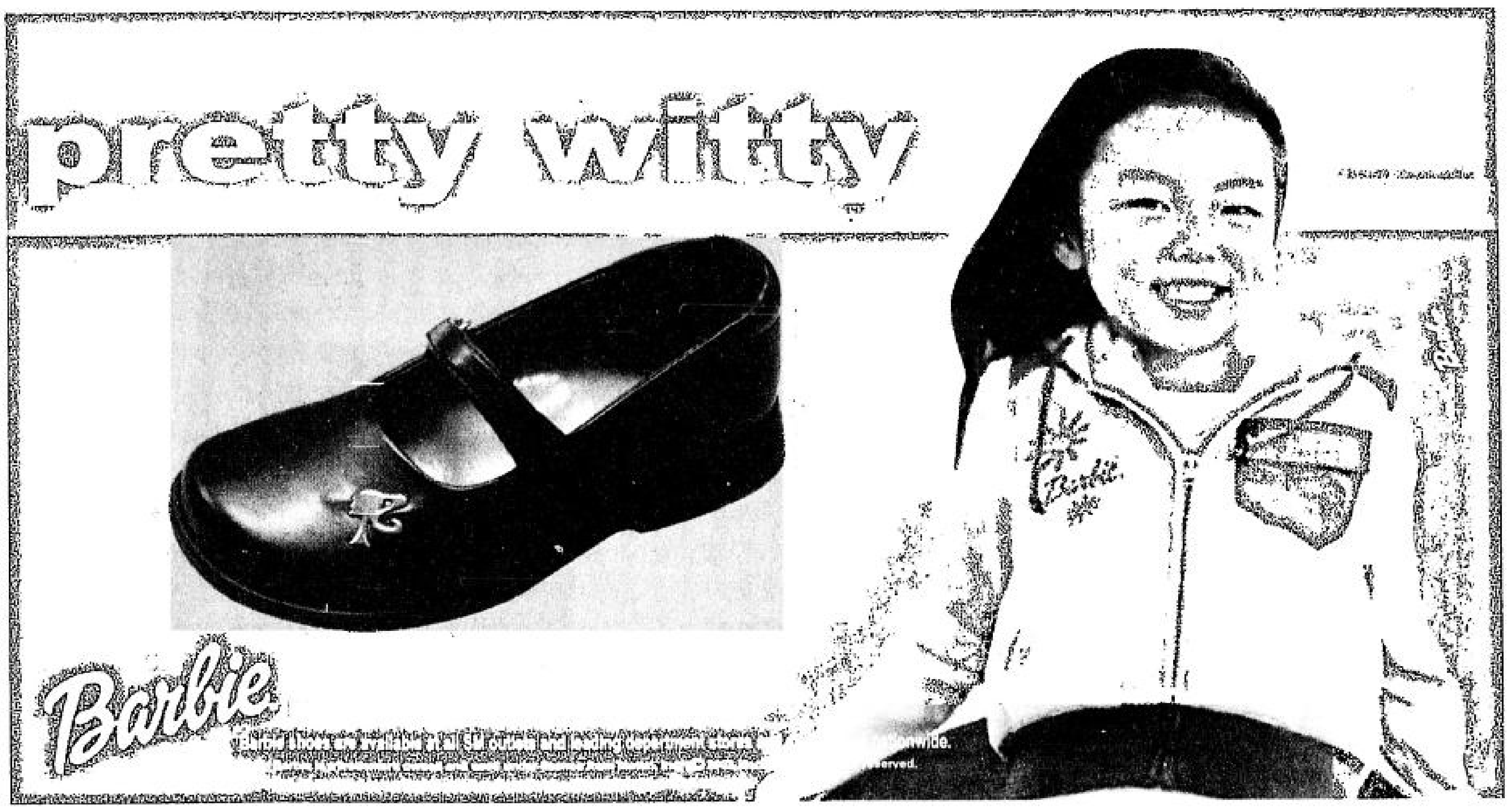
In celebration of Mother's Day, the Mandy Navasero Photography Studio offers 50 percent discount for family pictures until June 15. For details, call 522-5189 or 522-1905 or CF (0916) 706-0130 or e-mail: mn_photocom@i-manila.com.ph.

'Smallville' . . .

From page E2

in "Smallville" are squeaky-clean. And it has better visual effects. As a child, I remember that, when Superman flew, it looked like he was lying stomach-down on a couch, with the couch blotted out.

In "Smallville," Clark has yet to fly (except for the time he was whirled upwards by a tornado). But his heat vision looks great. Instead of two inane tunnel flashlights extending from his focused eyes. they emerge more spread-out, with undulating colored air waves that ripple across the room. Very artsy-smartsy!



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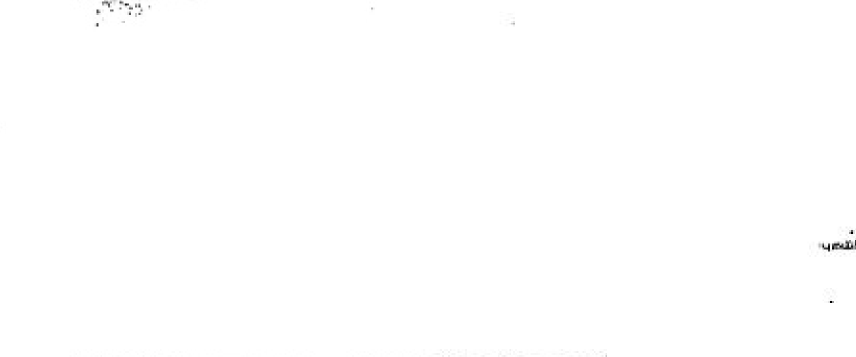

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NEO QNOTE	P60,999.00	P54,999.00	P6,000.00	1,100.00	2,200.00	4,500.00	5,000.00	7,100.00	8,200.00	10,500.00	11,000.00
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Bacharach, David team up once again for new musical

By Bob Thomas

LOS ANGELES—When composer Burt Bacharach went on the road in 1968 with the tryout of the stage musical "Promises, Promises," he got pneumonia, barely avoided a nervous breakdown and suffered the taunts of producer David Merrick, known in theater as "the abominable showman."

Spectator

When Bacharach's new musical, "The Look of Love: The Songs of Burt Bacharach and Hal David," premiered on Broadway last May 4, Bacharach was in the audience "as a spectator."

This came as a surprise to members of the music trade, who consider Bacharach the ultimate control freak. He is known to exact repeated rehearsals for his concerts and recordings and to tweak orchestrations until they fit his concepts down to the last note.

But for "The Look of Love," Bacharach says he "just tried to control a few things: I sent recordings, and I approved the drummer and the bass player. The rhythm section is very important in my music."

Reunion of sorts

"The Look of Love" offers a reunion of sorts for Bacharach and lyricist David, whose string of hits lasted longer than those of any other songwriting duo this side of Rodgers and Hammerstein. Just the titles—"Alfie," "I'll Never Fall in Love Again," "Walk on By," "Raindrops Keep Fallin' on My Head," "I Say a Little Prayer," "What the World Needs Now," "Do You Know the Way to San Jose?"—bring melodies, and memories, to mind.

Scott Ellis, director of "The Look of Love," said he grew up with Bacharach's music. "And it's still as popular today as it was 40 years ago. Every generation seems to be discovering it, which says a lot about the work," Ellis said.

"That sound—there is nothing else like it. When you hear it—you go, 'Burt Bacharach.' People react to it."

Yet in 1973, the hit-making partners shocked the music world by breaking up. Bacharach places the blame on the remaking of the movie "Lost Horizon."

The misbegotten redo started out much the same as the 1937 classic that starred Ronald Colman. But when the scene changed to Shangri-La, the filmmakers peppered the movie with songs and cast it with nonsingers who struggled haplessly with the tricky, offbeat Bacharach rhythms. Bacharach's desperate efforts to improve the sound led to his being barred from the recording stage.

Nonetheless, he helped promote "Lost Horizon," even touring with 14 kid singers from the movie. Then it opened to brutal reviews and little business, and he fled to his beach house near San Diego.

Commitment

"I didn't want to write with Hal or anybody," he says. "It became a problem because we had a commitment to record Dionne (Warwick, his favorite singer) for her next album. I didn't feel like doing it, and that was wrong.

"Dionne didn't get recorded, and she sued us. And Hal, to protect himself, sued me. It was just ugly and stupid on my part."

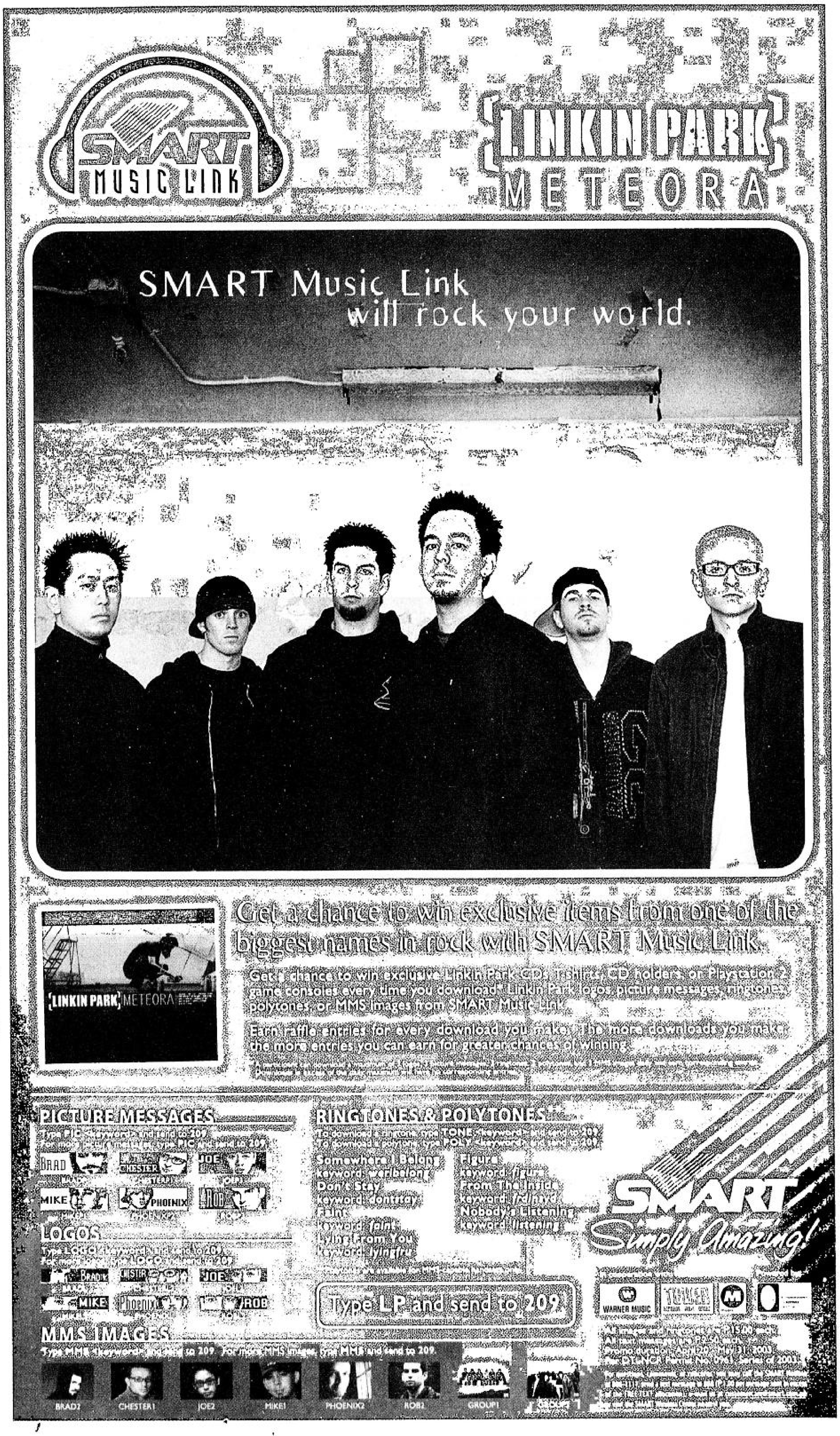
In time, the spat was settled. But Bacharach worked with other lyricists, including his third wife, Carole Bayer Sager, with whom he won the 1981 Academy Award for the "Arthur" theme song. He had won two in 1969 for the score and song (with David) of "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid."

Today, Burt Bacharach lives in a three-story French Provincial house in the upscale Los Angeles enclave of Pacific Palisades with his fourth wife, Jane, a former ski instructor, and

BACHARACH/ F2

PERFORMING a number in "The Look of Love: The Songs of Burt Bacharach and Hal David" are, from left, Desmond Richardson, Kevin Ceballo, Johnathan Dokuchitz and Eugene Fleming.

AP



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Make way for Jason Velasquez and Mark Bautista

By Andy P. Bais

THE RECENTLY concluded talent search, "Star for a Night," has produced not only a "star" in Sarah Geronimo, the search' top winner, but also five other promising performers who may be called the competition's magic six.

Clear preference

Two of them, *thankfully,* are males—21 year-old Jason Velasquez and 19 year-old Mark Bautista.

During the show's earlier episodes, there was a clear preference for female contestants over their male counterparts.

It was only after some industry observers openly took potshots at the show's bias against male contestants that the production people had a change of heart.

Jason is proud of his being an amateur singing contest veteran, starting at age 11.

"*Lahat na yata ng* singing contest *sa* Pampanga *at* Zamboanga, *nasalihan ko. Naikot ko na ang* Mindanao—from Cagayan de Oro, Davao—*pati* Cebu! There were times *na natalo ako*, but I never gave up. *Kasi*, the loss motivated me to improve my performance," Jason shares.

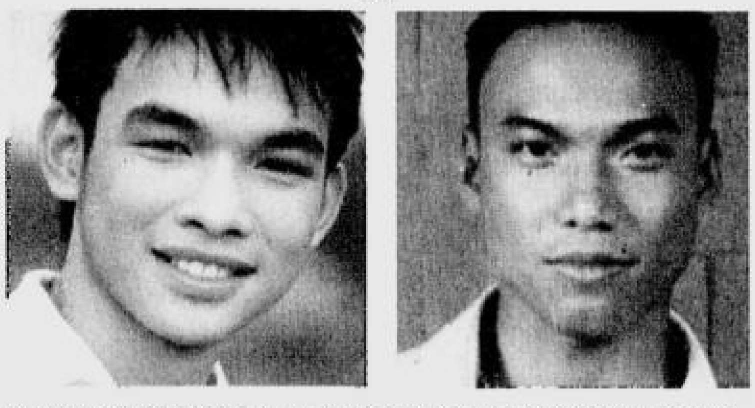
Job

It was only after finishing a degree in Management Information Systems at Ateneo de Zamboanga that he "rested" from joining amateur singing contests. He then came to Manila to look for a job and got one in Cavite City as a computer operator.

But his love for singing never waned, so when he came across an announcement for the "Star for a Night" audition, off he went to SM Megamall, where he had to slug it out with more than 400 other hopefuls.

Luckily, he passed the audition, and went on to win the weekly and semi-final rounds to qualify for the finals.

During the "Star for a Night" finals, Jason's star shone because he turned in a performance that could put to shame some of our established performers. His voice, which can be mistaken for Gary Valenciano's, was truly exceptional.


MARK AND JASON. Determined to make it as professional singers.

Second carrier single

Jason's version of Martin's "You Are My Song" will be the "Star for a Night" album's second carrier single. He will also start shooting the song's MTV soon.

Mark, on the other hand, is the exact opposite of Jason. Mark had never joined any singing competition until "Star for a Night."

The tall and good-looking singer from Cagayan de Oro is surprised at the way his singing career is being fast-tracked. "*Talagang hindi ko akalain na magkaganito ang buhay ko, kasi talagang mahiyain ako* when I was much younger," he recalls.

Reluctant singer

He was a reluctant singer in school. He was more into joining oratorical contests and even won in a national competition. It was only later, during high school, that he realized he had a good singing voice.

To make up for lost time, he joined singing and acting workshops and acted in Cebuano plays mounted by Pasundayag, a community-based theater group in Cagayan de Oro. He also joined boy bands that performed in the city's resto bars. Later, he went solo and did the rounds of piano bars while, at the same time, pursuing a course in architecture at Cagayan de Oro College. He was so busy with his solo singing career that he eventually stopped going to school.

Sensing that he'd had enough of performing for a local audience, Mark tried his luck as a singer in Japan. It was in Manila, while working on his travel papers, that he decided to join the talent search, "MTB's" Star Quest. His first try wasn't a success.

Cargo ship

Next, he auditioned for "Star for a Night" in Cebu. He passed, but was told to go to Manila for a second audition. This time, Mark did not pass up the opportunity—even if he had to travel on a cargo ship and endured the three-day trip from Cagayan de Oro to Manila with only P250 in his pocket!

Like his new-found buddy Jason, Mark topped the weekly and the semi-final rounds of "Star for a Night" to qualify for the finals. During the finals, Mark made his fellow Cagayanons proud with his deep baritone rendition of a re-arranged version of Basil Valdez's "Ngayon at Kailanman."

Both Jason and Mark are being managed by Viva and are busy with mall tours in Metro Manila. They are each expected to record a solo album within a year's time. Let's hope they make it!

Bacharach, David team up once again for new musical

From page F1

their son and daughter, Oliver, 10, and Raleigh, 7.

Still boyishly handsome at 74, the composer sat for a poolside interview one recent morning clad in a blue sweat suit. He had just finished his usual workout and had an appointment with his personal trainer later in the day.

Beginnings

"The Look of Love," the musical, had its beginnings in San Diego five years ago when New York's Roundabout Theater Company tried a compilation of the Bacharach-David songs. It flopped, but Bacharach has far more confidence in the new production team—especially Ann Reinking, who staged the dances. He and David wrote a new song for the show, but it didn't fit and was cut.

The Broadway cast is a collection of theater singers and dancers including Liz Callaway, Jonathan Dokuchitz, Jeanine LaManna and Desmond Richardson.

"Originally, these songs were sung by very young singers who could really connect with the honesty of the music and the lyrics," Ellis said. "There had to be a real soul underneath them. Today, it was just finding voices who were equally clear and who have that same connection with the material."

Besides his Broadway retrospective, Bacharach has a new album in the works.

Right audience

"All new stuff," he says. "I've already written five numbers. It's going to be very different. I'm going to make it for an English company. The English have always been on my side, they discovered me. It would be the right audience to start with."

The album would be "cutting edge," he vows, including contributions from Dr. Dre and Elvis Costello, with whom he collaborated on a 1998 album, "Painted From Memory."

Bacharach has been playing the piano since he was 8 or 9, pushed into it by his mother. He spent his after-school hours practicing when he would have rather been playing football.

When he was a teenager, his mother told him: "Your dad and I have been pushing, pushing. You don't seem to like this, so it's really your choice: If you want to stop, you can stop right now."

He concluded that it would disappoint his mother if he stopped. And maybe, just maybe, he might have some talent. AP

FEU honors Ms Dely Magpayo, the undisputed queen of Philippine radio

By Rustica C. Carpio

SHE is fair-complexioned, svelte, speaks moderately, and is queenly in demeanor. In fact, she *is* a queen—the undisputed queen of the Philippine radio.

82 years old

Ms Fidela "Tiya Dely" Mendoza-Magpayo is already 82 years old, but looks like she could go on working for 10 more years.

"I eat everything—in moderation. That is why I had to learn how to cook," she told us at radio station dzRH in Star City before her evening program. "No regular exercise, but a walk suffices. And I get enough rest."

Tia Dely is experienced in stage and movie acting, and sings beautifully. But it is in the field of broadcasting where she has made an indelible mark—for 63 years now!

Stage performer

As a stage performer, she played opposite movie idol Angel Esmeralda in "Nasaan Ka, Irog" at the Manila Grand Opera House during the Japanese occupation, under the direction of Lamberto V. Avellana. She was also directed by Cris Daluz, Mar Torres, Rosa Mia and Beer Flores, and acted with Pugo, Tugo, Dely Atay-Atayan and Andoy Balumbalunan.

In the early days of her life in radio, her directors included Fred Gonzales, Rosa Mia, Ben Pangan, and Clodualdo del Mundo. Her principal mentor for radio announcing was the famous writer Liwayway Arceo, and her critic was no less than Lope K. Santos.

"When I entered radio, I had no idea about fade in and fade out, but colleagues and experience gave me the know-how," says Tiya Dely.

MAGPAYO. Broadcasting icon.

Tiya Dely's mother was Amanda de Leon Mendoza, and her father, Vicente Calayag Magpayo, was the son of Miguel Magpayo, who constructed the historic Barasoain Church in Bulacan.

Commander

Her late husband, Col. Leonor Reyes, fought in Bataan and Korea. At the Philippine Constabulary, he was a commander, but at home it was Tiya Dely who "ruled." Daughters Violeta and Delia and son Leonor Jr. are her jewels, and she is a doting grandmother to Sarah and Leon Reyes.

A working student, Tiya Dely was busy at the Department of Foreign Affairs by day, and attended evening classes as a Foreign Service student at the Far Eastern University. Shifting later to Political Science, she graduated with a bachelor's degree in 1950. To this day, she fondly remembers her studies at FEU.

Good singer

Tiya Dely played a significant role in Elpidio Quirino's bid for the vice presidency. When it was discovered that she was a good singer, she was tapped to sing at his rallies in different parts of the country. Possessing remarkbale stamina, she anchored a telethon from 7 o'clock in the morning to 3 o'clock in the afternoon, and still remained fresh and unruffled.

This broadcasting icon has numerous recognitions to her name. Her alma mater, the Far Eastern University, will be honoring her together with other outstanding alumni in connection with the institution's diamond jubilee celebrations this year. This is a a fitting tribute to a diamond lady who continues to reign over the local airwaves!

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM MAY 10 – MAY 16

CH	[illegible]	[illegible]	5	[illegible]	9	13	23	29	33
[illegible]	6:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 8:00 Arriba, Arriba 9:00 Fiyesta Cinema 10:30 Kontrobersyal 11:30 "F" 12:00 Sports Unlimited	5:00 PBA Games 7:00 Yan Ang Pinoy 8:00 The Working President 9:00 14th Asian Games 2002 (Replay) 10:00 Tour Pilipinas 11:00 Business and Leisure	7:00 Sailormoon Sailor Stars 7:30 Mirror, Mirror 8:00 Wow Mali! 9:00 Viva Box Office *Kadenang Bulaklak* 11:00 Go For Gold	6:00 Dragon Ball Z 6:30 Imbestigador 7:30 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:30 Kakabakaba 9:30 Blockbuster Cinema 11:20 Flash Report 11:30 Master Showman	6:00 Isumbong Mo Kay Tulfo 7:00 7 Days 8:00 John Doe 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse	5.00 PBA Provincial Game 8:00 Amazing Twins 9:00 To Be Announced 10:00 Bakbakan sa Maynila	6:00 Combat Mission 7:00 Game Plan 7:30 7th Heaven 8:30 Boston Public 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 11:30 Reel Deal	7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras Ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	5:30 CBS Evening News 6:00 E! News Weekend 7:00 Celebrity Profile 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 10:00 David Letterman 11.00 Wild On
[illegible]	5:30 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanataym 8:30 Home Along Da Riles 9:30 Sunday Family Cinema 11:30 Dong Puno Tonight 12:00 The Weekend News	4.00 PBA Games 9:00 14th Asian Games (Replay) 10:00 Standing Room Only 10:30 Tour Pilipinas	6:00 Zorro 6:30 Guyferd 7:00 Ispup 8:00 Sing-Galing 9:00 Viva Cine Idols *Kapantay Ay Langit* 11:00 Speed	5:30 Partners Mel & Jay 7:00 KI 8:30 Daddy Di Do Du 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office 11:20 Flash Report 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents	6:00 Entertainment This Weekend 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Match TV 9:00 Sunday's Big Event 11:00 Sunday Report	5:00 PBA Games 9:30 Global Family Series 11:00 El Shaddai	6:00 Jimmy Neutron 6:30 Futurama 7:00 Digital Tour 7:30 Spy TV 8:00 Yes Dear 8:30 Just Shoot Me 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 The West Wing 10:30 Scariest Places on Earth 11:30 News Central	7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night movies	5:30 CBS Evening News 6:00 E! Coming Attractions 6:30 FYE 7:00 E! Original Specials 8:00 Rank 9:00 Revealed w/ Jules Asner 10:00 Movies on E!
[illegible]	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Game K N B? 7:30 Bituin 8:00 Darating Ang Umaga 8:30 Kay Tagal Kang Hinitay 9:00 Bida Si Mister, Bida Si Misis 11:00 Headlines 11:30 The Correspondents	6:00 14th Asian Games (Replay) 7:00 Strangebrew 7:30 In the Raw 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 Tour Pilipinas	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 F 7:00 Mahha Go Go Go 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 That 70s Show 9:00 On Air 9:30 Misadventures of Maverick and Ariel 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Mad TV	6:00 Frontpage 6:40 Habang Kapiling Ka 7:20 Ang Ibigin Ay Ikaw Pa Rin 8:00 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:40 Kung Mawawala Ka 9:20 Da Boy and Da Girl 10:30 Saksi 11:00 I-Witness	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Digmaan sa Iraq 6:30 Hot Ticket 7:00 Just for Laughs 8:00 Jag 9:00 Harsh Realm 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Sex & the City	6:30 NBA Jam 7:00 NBA 2000 9:30 Global Family Series 10:30 IBC News Tonite 11:00 Linawin Natin	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Samurai X 8:00 Buffy 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah	6.30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 E! News Live 7:00 Behind The Scenes 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 10:00 Best of Late Show 11:00 Wild On
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Marilyn Monroe was much more than just a sex symbol

MONROE. A temptress who didn't realize her erotic appeal.

By Behn Cervantes

IN "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes," she was just the "Little Girl from Little Rock," but the whole world later realized that dumb blonde Lorelei Lee, better known as Marilyn Monroe, was a sex symbol for all sensual seasons.

Epitome

Marilyn soon became the '50s epitome of the blonde bombshell. She was the new queen of sex appeal, a curvaceous platinum blonde deliciously molded after the late Jean Marilyn Harlow.

In "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" Marilyn Monroe clearly upstaged Jane Russell, the brunette star of "Outlaw." Soon after that Anita Loos musical, MM made men sit up and palpitate as she sang "Kiss" in the film "Niagara."

Air vent

She again gained attention when her white skirt flew above her waist while she stood on top of a subway air vent in "The Seven Year Itch." Her riotous personal appearance in Korea in front of lonely G.I.'s established her as the world's top pin-up girl.

The fact that she stole the limelight from her husband, baseball great Joe DiMaggio, in baseball-crazy Tokyo proved that she was indeed the queen of Hollywood.

Her scintillating sexiness was all the more tempting because it appeared that the temptress didn't realize her erotic appeal. She possessed a "girl next door" face, but her pert lips and bedroom eyes made men think "evil" thoughts.

Soap opera

Monroe did not only live a life worthy of a soap opera, but her climb up the Hollywood ladder also included the casting couch. Her affairs with Frank Sinatra, Arthur Miller, Yves Montand, John and Bobby Kennedy and many others, lent even more erotic color to her image. Her controversial death made her an icon for generations of younger fans.

She was often the antithesis of her sexy image. She was undeniably talented, but Sir Laurence Olivier thought she was impossible to direct when they co-starred in "The Prince and the Showgirl," produced by Marilyn herself. She was equally difficult on the set of "The Misfits," written by Miller and directed by John Huston.

Clark Gable's heart attack and death were attributed to aggravation over her tardiness on the movie's set. She was fired from "Something's Got To Give" because she was deemed "unprofessional" by the studio that had earned many millions from her earlier hits.

Fine performance

However, Marilyn is also remembered for her fine performance in "Bus Stop," Joshua Logan's adaptation of William Inge's Broadway hit. Logan handled her gently, giving her space to experiment and discover herself.

Logan writes in his biography that Marilyn was a surprisingly intelligent person. No wonder then that her acting guru Lee Strasberg rated her acting talent alongside that of the great Marlon Brando.

Logan also reveals that Marilyn's wonderfully pathetic "That Ol' Black Magic" dance sequence was her idea, including the torn stockings and costumes. Olivier later asked Logan for advice on how to handle her. Logan told him to keep Paula Strasberg, her acting mentor, off the set. He also told him to let her do her thing, to give her artistic space.

Marilyn later wanted to portray Grushenka in "Brothers Karamazov" and other challenging characters, but her image trapped her and did not let her grow into the artist she always felt she was. And we're all the poorer for it.

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SATURDAY *Special*

AL Pacino and Marisa Tomei in "Salome" at the Ethel Barrymore Theatre. Pacino plays the role of King Herod.

AP

Odd, unsatisfying reading of Wilde's 'Salome' rapped

By Michael Kuchwara

NEW YORK—Who knew there were so many laughs to be had on the way to the beheading of John the Baptist?

Celebrated actors

Well, there are a lot of them, unintentional and otherwise, in the odd reading of Oscar Wilde's "Salome" that several celebrated actors, including Al Pacino, Dianne Wiest, Marisa Tomei and David Strathairn, have put on display at Broadway's Ethel Barrymore Theater.

Actually, this bewildering production is a step beyond a reading since it's peppered with music (by Yukio Tsuji) and a bit of movement. That includes Salome's infamous Dance of the Seven Veils in which Tomei, depending on how the spirit moves her, undulates in various stages of undress. At the preview this critic attended, she bared her breasts; at others, she apparently has kept everything on. So much for method acting.

Wilde originally wrote "Salome" in French, hoping to attract the legendary Sarah Bernhardt to play the title role. Maybe it sounded better in a foreign language. It's a strange play, dramatically inert, yet filled with overripe declarations and not much plot. And it's miles away from such Wilde classics as "The Importance of Being Earnest" and "An Ideal Husband."

Predicament

King Herod (Pacino) lusts after his stepdaughter, Salome, while his wife, Herodias (Wiest), looks on with disdain and later amusement at her husband's predicament.

Mercifully short (the evening runs about 90 minutes), the drama revolves around Herod's promise to give Salome anything she wants—as long as the young girl dances for him. She does and demands the head of John the Baptist, here called Jokanaan, played by Strathairn with a messianic fierce-

ODD/ G3

Maryland Film Festival documentaries explore rebuilding Afghanistan

By Ben Nuckols

BALTIMORE—For most Americans, Afghanistan has been out of sight and out of mind for a while.

Warplanes

As US warplanes went to work in Iraq, it was easy for Americans to forget the massive rebuilding challenge that still awaits the nation targeted after the Sept. 11 attacks for harboring al-Qaida terrorists.

The enormity of the task in Afghanistan as well as Iraq is foreshadowed by two documentaries screening at this weekend's Maryland Film Festival in Baltimore.

"Afghan Stories" and "Life After War" chart the maddening, disorganized beginnings of the effort to get Afghanistan to function as a state that benefits its citizens.

"It's critical that Afghanistan isn't neglected, but certainly the media runs where the big news is," said "Afghan Stories" director Taran Davies. "And I think this is the role of people like me—documentary filmmakers—to go out there and keep people interested."

Personal project

"Afghan Stories" was a personal project for Davies, who has made other films in central Asia. Immediately after Sept. 11, Davies, who was born in England but lives in New York, felt he had to travel to Afghanistan and illuminate the people who were about to endure a US bombing campaign.

Davies recruited Walied Osman, an Afghan-American acquaintance, to travel with him. First, the two visit Ad Sharza, an exiled member of the Afghan royal family who was tortured at the hands of the Taliban when he traveled back to his homeland in the mid-1990s. Sharza, who lives in Queens, New York, advises Davies and Osman against traveling to Afghanistan, saying, "There's nothing left."

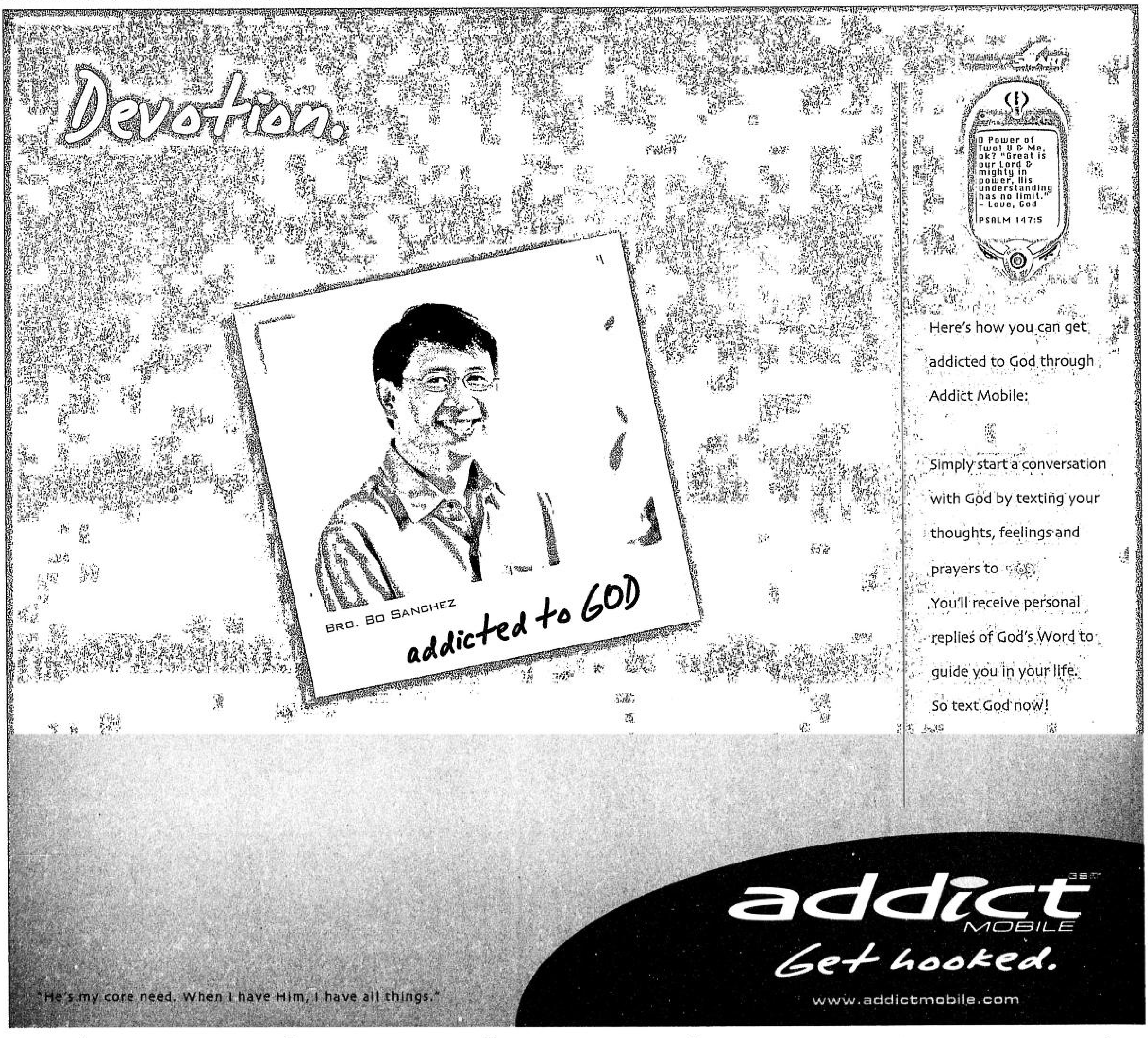
TARAN Davies directed "Afghan Stories," a documentary that charts the disorganized beginnings of the titanic effort to get Afghanistan to function again as a state that benefits its citizens.

AP

The filmmakers fly to Tajikistan, where they stay with an exiled journalist and his family, then cross over to Northern Alliance-controlled territory, where they stay with a friendly religious leader during the bombing campaign. Finally, they watch as a local head of the UN World Food Program orchestrates a project to build a road, with the cooperation of a local warlord who assumed power after the Taliban's defeat.

Davies said he hoped to counter the perception that Afghans were either refugees or terrorists, and the people in his film emerge as warm, loyal and—somehow—still hopeful. He was particularly moved by the kindness of

MARYLAND/ G3



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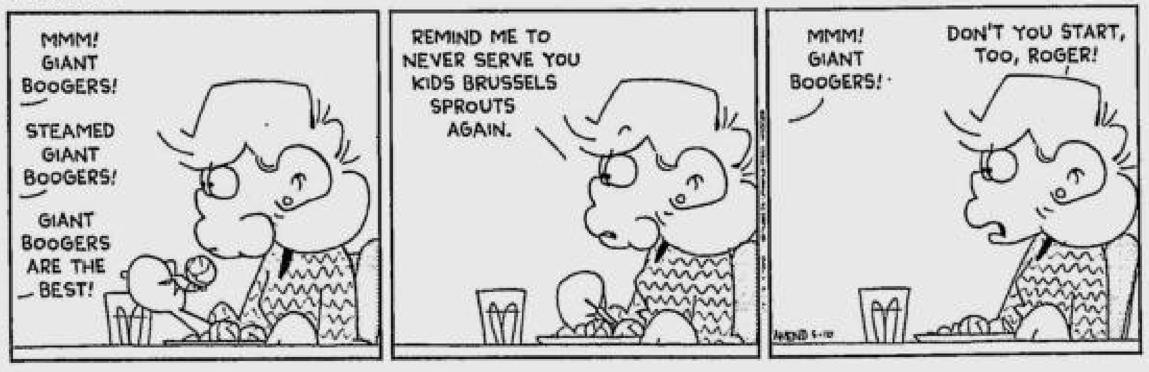
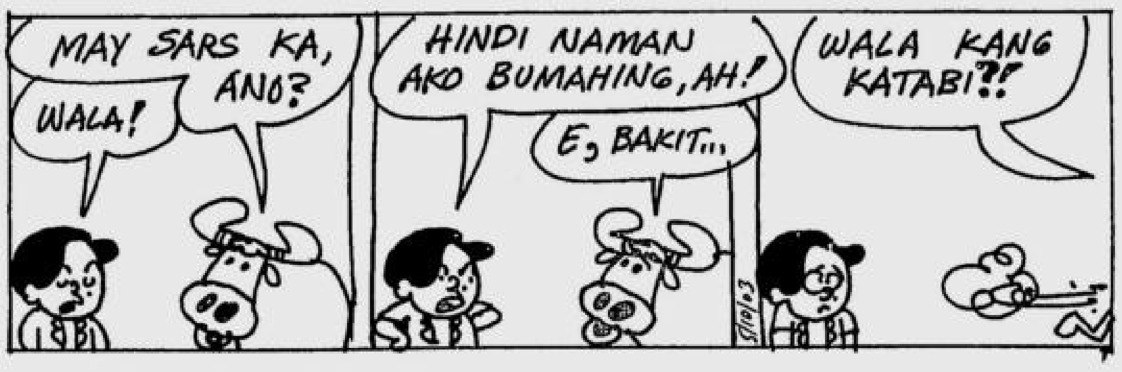
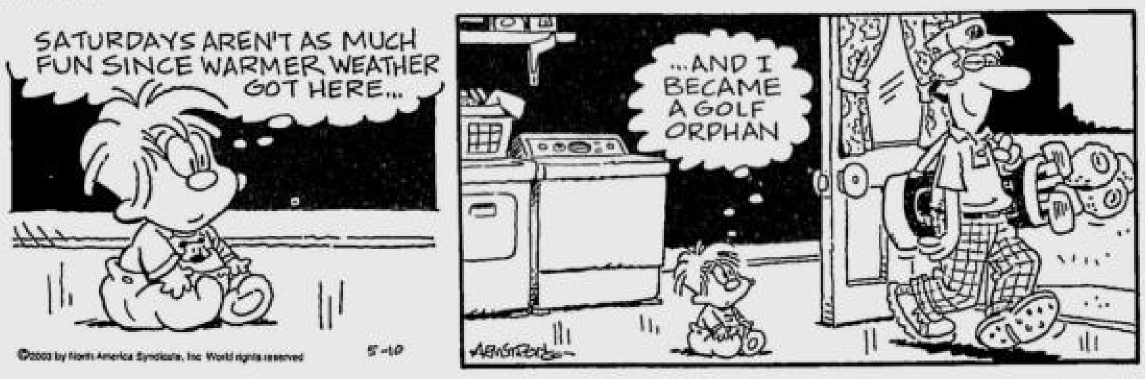

MMM! GIANT BOOGERS!
STEAMED GIANT BOOGERS!
GIANT BOOGERS ARE THE BEST!
REMIND ME TO NEVER SERVE YOU KIDS BRUSSELS SPROUTS AGAIN.
MMM! GIANT BOOGERS!
DON'T YOU START, TOO, ROGER!
AMEND 5-10

A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


MAY SARS KA, ANO?
WALA!
HINDI NAMAN AKO BUMAHING, AH!
E, BAKIT...
WALA KANG KATABI?!

MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


SATURDAYS AREN'T AS MUCH FUN SINCE WARMER WEATHER GOT HERE...
...AND I BECAME A GOLF ORPHAN
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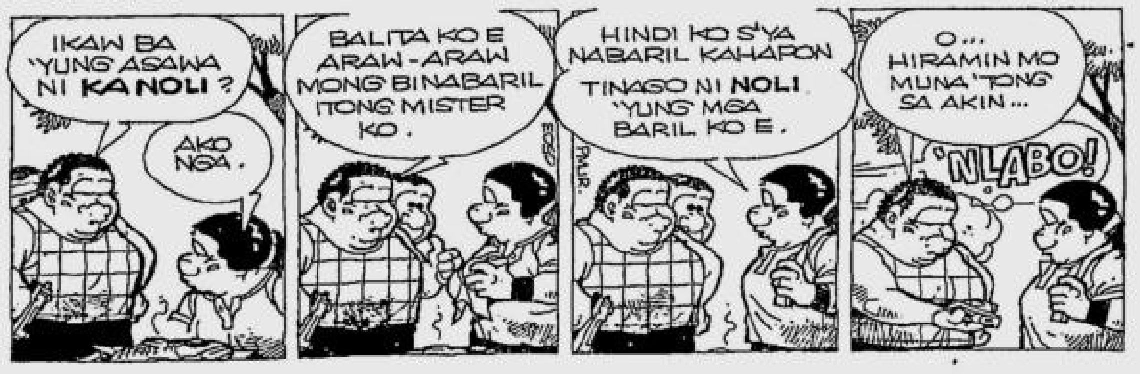
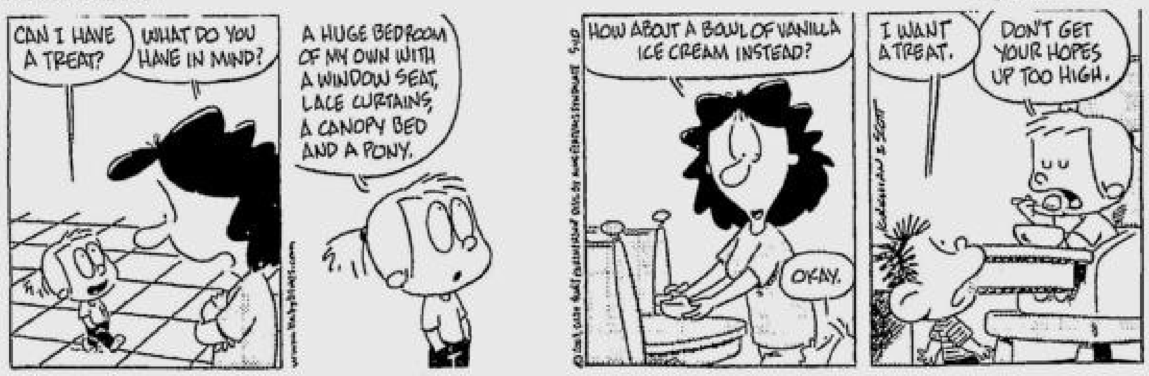
5-10
ARMSTRONG

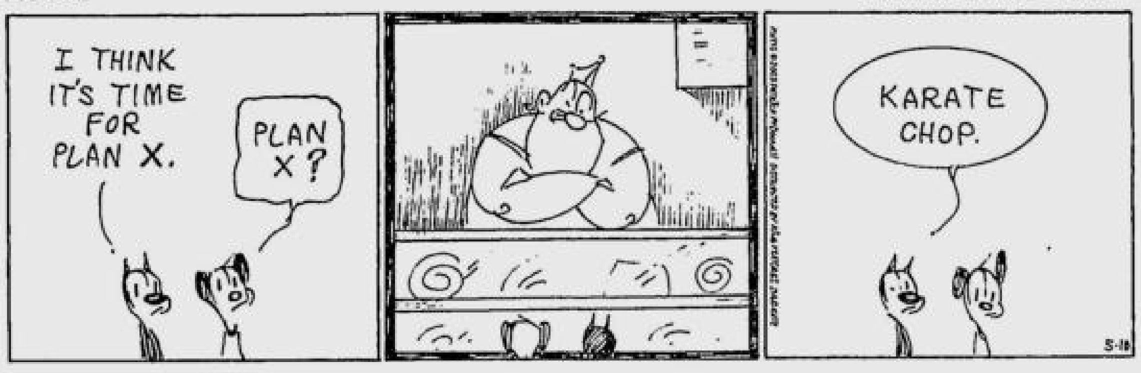
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


IKAW BA 'YUNG ASAWA NI KA NOLI ?
AKO NGA .
BALITA KO E ARAW-ARAW MONG BINABARIL ITONG MISTER KO .
HINDI KO S'YA NABARIL KAHAPON
TINAGO NI NOLI 'YUNG MGA BARIL KO E .
O... HIRAMIN MO MUNA 'TONG SA AKIN...
'NLABO!
PMJR.

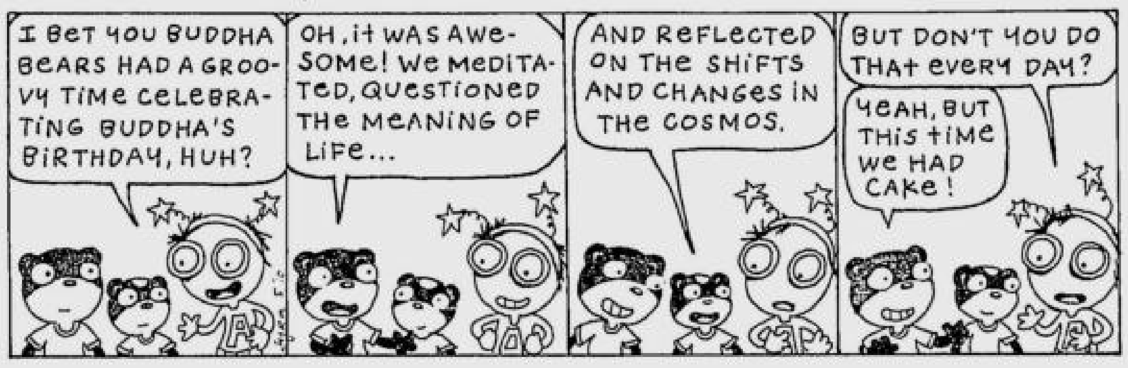
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


CAN I HAVE A TREAT?
WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN MIND?
A HUGE BEDROOM OF MY OWN WITH A WINDOW SEAT, LACE CURTAINS, A CANOPY BED AND A PONY.
HOW ABOUT A BOWL OF VANILLA ICE CREAM INSTEAD?
OKAY.
I WANT A TREAT.
DON'T GET YOUR HOPES UP TOO HIGH.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

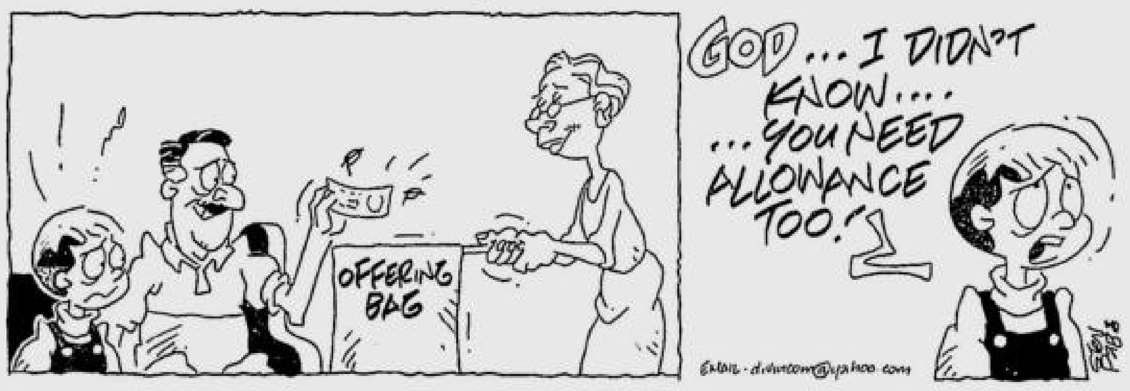
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


I THINK IT'S TIME FOR PLAN X.
PLAN X?
KARATE CHOP.
5-10

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


I BET YOU BUDDHA BEARS HAD A GROOVY TIME CELEBRATING BUDDHA'S BIRTHDAY, HUH?
OH, IT WAS AWESOME! WE MEDITATED, QUESTIONED THE MEANING OF LIFE...
AND REFLECTED ON THE SHIFTS AND CHANGES IN THE COSMOS.
BUT DON'T YOU DO THAT EVERY DAY?
YEAH, BUT THIS TIME WE HAD CAKE!

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


OFFERING BAG
GOD... I DIDN'T KNOW... ...YOU NEED ALLOWANCE TOO.
EMAIL - divincom@yahoo.com

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a fabulous imagination! You adore dance, music, poetry, literature and art. It's a good thing that you're not afraid to be different from others, because your gift of fantasy sets you apart from most. You are often too modern and ahead of your time to be appreciated. Focus on your closest relationships this year.
Birthdate of: Natasha Richardson, actress; Salvador Dali, artist; Irving Berlin, composer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Tidy up loose ends to residential moves or changes at home. You are giving a lot of thought to where you want to live and put down roots.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): For some time you have given serious consideration to your value system. Think about where you are headed now, because job changes and residential moves are likely in the year ahead.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Ever since 2001, it's been a different world for you. Now that you are beginning to get your footing, it's time to discover what really matters.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Recently you have struggled giving up jobs, friendships, partnerships and possessions. The reason all this took place is because the year 2003 ushers in a big change for you. (A whole new world!)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You have an increasing desire to be part of something bigger than yourself. You want to make a positive contribution to the world. You want to live so that you can make a difference.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Because you have a strong urge to escape your daily routine, do anything that makes you feel more alive and adventurous. This can be as simple as going home a different route or visiting different stores.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): It's important to believe in yourself now. The year ahead is a time of culmination and a time of harvest for you. Whatever you planted in the past seven years now will ripen.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Your closest partnerships and friendships can teach you something about yourself now. Remember that these relationships actually mirror who you are.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Pleasure and romance are on your mind today. You finally have the courage to go after whomever and whatever you want. (Take a fun vacation if you can.)

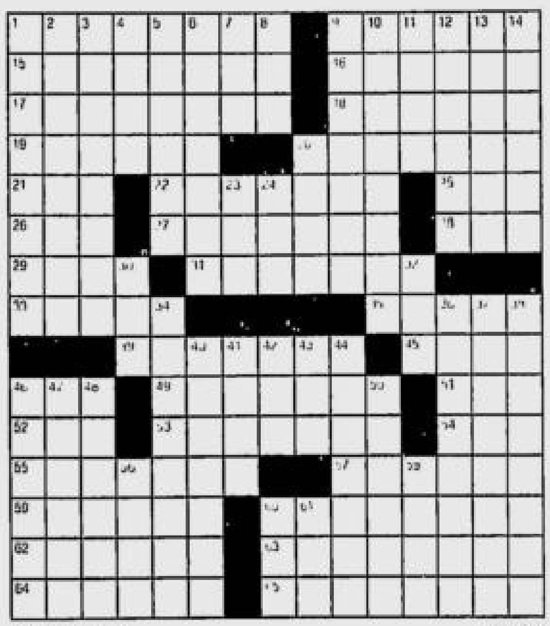
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Your efforts to make where you live look more attractive please you now. You're spending money, but you feel you're getting something back in return.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You definitely need increased physical exercise to blow off some of the energy building up within you. Old family matters test your patience now.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Use diplomacy when dealing with the public today. Your charm and patience will simply add to the reasons why your job improves so much this year.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Tidal waves
9 Happens
15 Pearl Harbor location
16 Saturn or Mercury
17 Let loose
18 Read carefully
19 Took lodgings
20 Old name for a two wood
21 Tax letters
22 Taker of little bites
25 Cornering pipe
26 Surprising shout
27 Prescient woman
28 __ Moines
29 Shapeless mass
31 Studies
33 Bacon paper?
35 Pocketed breads
39 Informal gatherings
45 Nautical side
46 Boxing great
49 Edicts
51 Intense anger
52 Sebaceous cyst
53 Component
54 Author Deighton
55 Bothers
57 Truthful
59 Perfect goals
60 Cupid
62 Keepsake jewelry
63 Park ranger
64 Whole
65 Speakers before drinks



By Tom Pruce
Chicago, IL
5/10/03

DOWN
1 Censer
2 Impressive in speech
3 Gets off one's chest?
4 "Cheers" drinker
5 UFO crew
6 More clouded by sediment
7 Under the weather
8 "For Love" author Miller
9 Weigh heavily on
10 Brightens
11 Train units
12 Brand new
13 Put back in the granary
14 Iron alloys
20 Ran in the wash
23 Quilters' gathering
24 Lingerie purchase
30 __ de deux
32 Charles Dickens hero
34 Alpine singer
36 Eau de __
37 Police officer, at times
38 Trumpet-shaped protozoans
40 Actress Holm
41 Cools down
42 Tentacle
43 Peggy or Brenda
44 Brazilian woman's title
46 Some time
47 Lure with false promises
48 Bug
50 Puts away for a rainy day
56 H.H. Munro's pen name
58 Cozy retreat
60 Rear of the space shuttle
61 Bellow by Bossy

Friday's Puzzle Solved

M	I	C	A	■	P	A	R	A	■	H	E	A	L	S
E	N	O	S	■	S	L	A	V	■	A	P	N	E	A
S	T	O	C	K	I	D	I	O	M	S	E	T	A	L
S	O	L	A	R	■	A	S	I	A	■	E	S	N	E
■	■	A	P	I	S	■	E	D	I	E	■	I	N	S
P	M	S	■	S	H	A	D	■	D	A	R	N	■	■
R	O	A	R	■	U	S	A	F	■	S	A	Y	S	O
O	N	C	E	I	N	A	B	L	U	E	M	O	O	N
W	O	U	N	D	■	P	I	E	S	■	P	U	L	L
■	■	C	O	E	D	■	G	A	E	L	■	R	O	Y
A	B	U	■	A	R	E	S	■	R	E	A	P	■	■
D	U	M	P	■	E	T	T	A	■	A	V	A	N	T
H	E	B	L	E	W	H	I	S	C	H	A	N	C	E
O	N	E	A	L	■	O	N	T	O	■	S	T	A	R
C	O	R	N	Y	■	S	K	I	D	■	T	S	A	R

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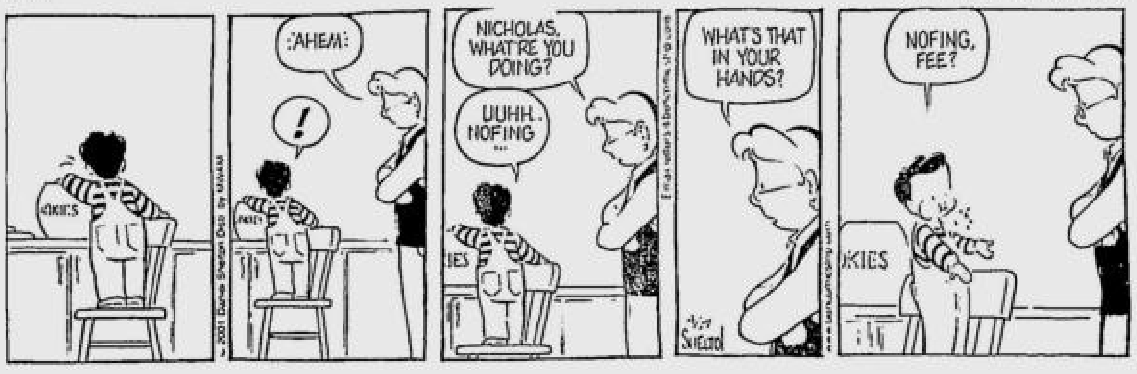
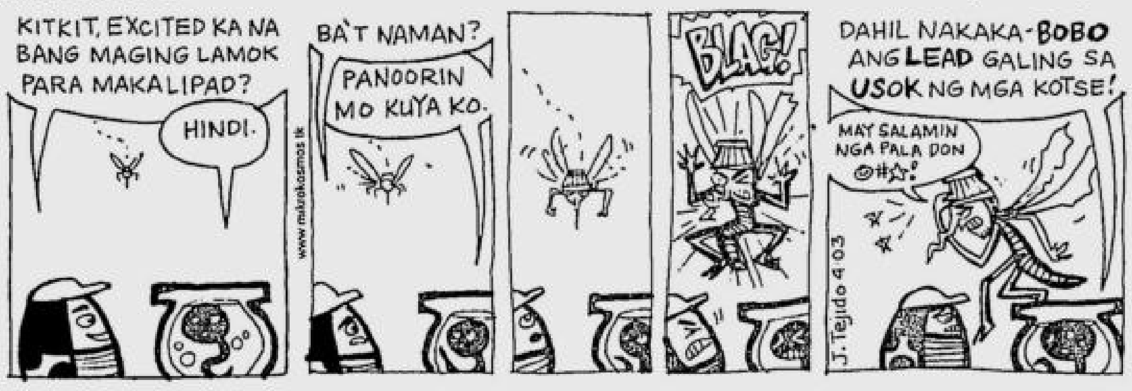
5/10/03

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


:AHEM:
!
NICHOLAS, WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
UUHH.. NOFING
WHAT'S THAT IN YOUR HANDS?
NOFING, FEE?
SHELTON

MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


KITKIT, EXCITED KA NA BANG MAGING LAMOK PARA MAKALIPAD?
HINDI.
BA'T NAMAN?
PANOORIN MO KUYA KO.
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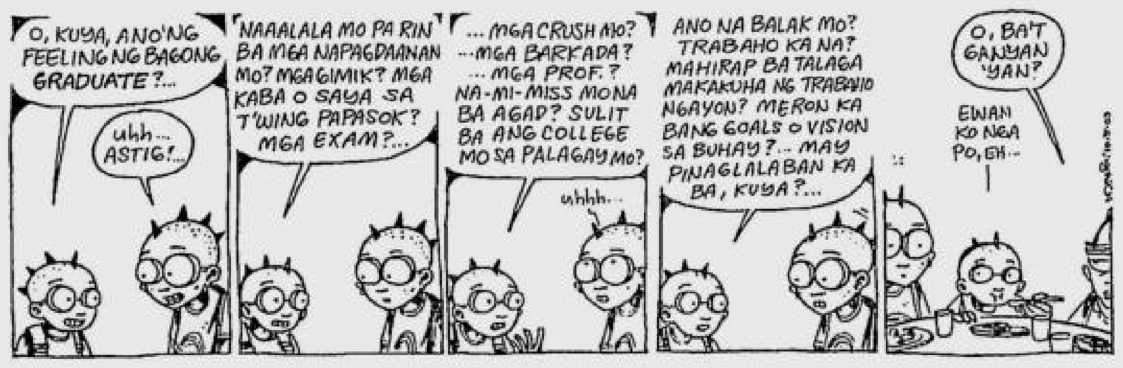
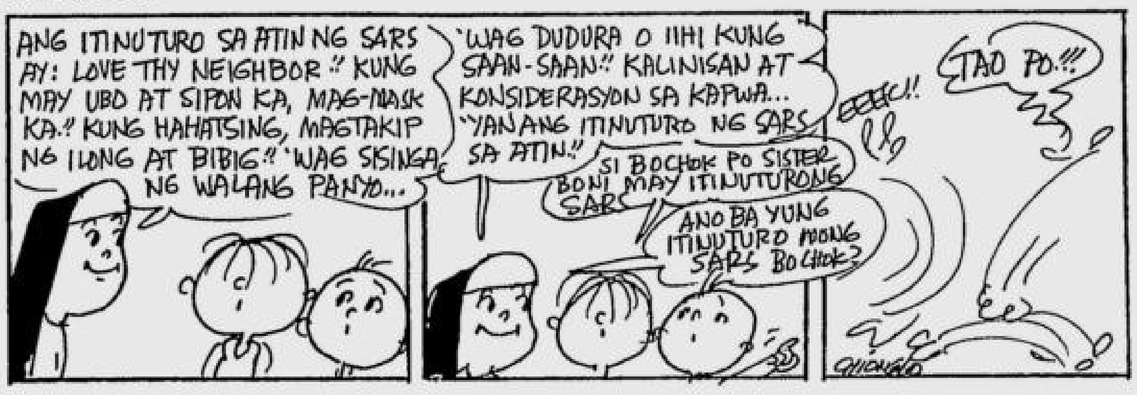
BLAG!
J. Tejido 4.03
DAHIL NAKAKA-BOBO ANG LEAD GALING SA USOK NG MGA KOTSE!
MAY SALAMIN NGA PALA DON @#☆!

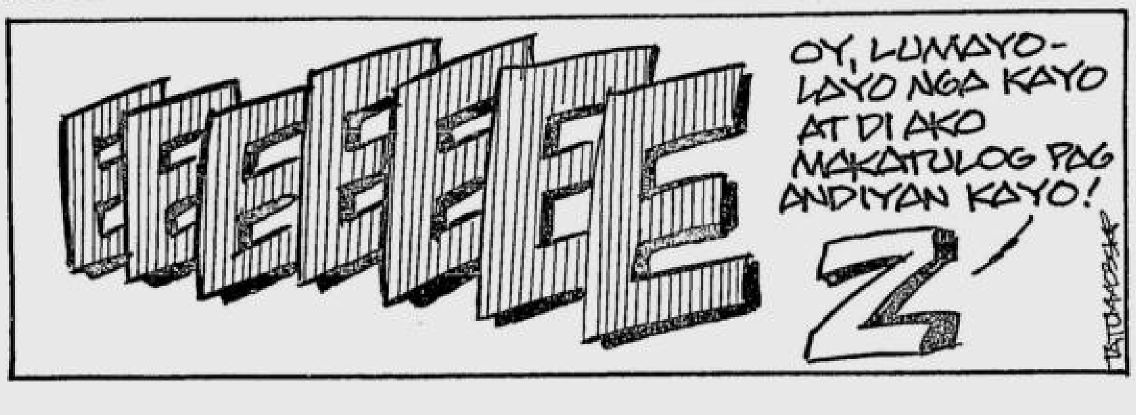
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


O, KUYA, ANO'NG FEELING NG BAGONG GRADUATE?...
uhh... ASTIG!...
NAAALALA MO PA RIN BA MGA NAPAGDAANAN MO? MGA GIMIK? MGA KABA O SAYA SA T'WING PAPASOK? MGA EXAM?...
...MGA CRUSH MO? ...MGA BARKADA? ...MGA PROF.? NA-MI-MISS MO NA BA AGAD? SULIT BA ANG COLLEGE MO SA PALAGAY MO?
uhhh...
ANO NA BALAK MO? TRABAHO KA NA? MAHIRAP BA TALAGA MAKAKUHA NG TRABAHO NGAYON? MERON KA BANG GOALS O VISION SA BUHAY?... MAY PINAGLALABAN KA BA, KUYA?...
O, BA'T GANYAN 'YAN?
EWAN KO NGA PO, EH...

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ANG ITINUTURO SA ATIN NG SARS AY: LOVE THY NEIGHBOR!" KUNG MAY UBO AT SIPON KA, MAG-MASK KA!" KUNG HAHATSING, MAGTAKIP NG ILONG AT BIBIG!" 'WAG SISINGA NG WALANG PANYO...
'WAG DUDURA O IIHI KUNG SAAN-SAAN!" KALINISAN AT KONSIDERASYON SA KAPWA... 'YAN ANG ITINUTURO NG SARS SA ATIN!"
SI BOCHOK PO SISTER BONI MAY ITINUTURONG SARS
ANO BA YUNG ITINUTURO MONG SARS BOCHOK?
EEEEK!!
TAO PO!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


EEEEEEE
OY, LUMAYO-LAYO NGA KAYO AT DI AKO MAKATULOG PAG ANDIYAN KAYO!
Z
TATUMOSBAR

Rivals Kyla and Nina enliven the music scene

By Jocelyn Valle

THE DISCOVERY of new stars enlivens and ensures the development of the entertainment industry, but there's no surefire formula for success. Most of the time, in fact, it backfires, that's why there are more one-hit wonders than consistent hit makers.

Veteran

It's cause for celebration, therefore, when an aspirant succeeds. Singers Kyla and Nina are not exactly neophytes. Kyla won the "Tanghalan ng Kampeon" grand prize at age 12, while Nina is a veteran of the band scene.

Their recent back-to-back concert, "Cold War" at Ratsky's in Morato, serves as an inspiration for upcoming singers who are still waiting for their time to shine. My notes on the gig:

They open the show with "I'm Coming Out;" then they segue to Aretha Franklin's not-for-the-faint-of-heart showstopper "Respect."

Version

Both the performers and the crowd are fired up at this point. Nina delights the crowd with Patty Austin's "Say You Love Me" and her version of Steve Perry's "Foolish Heart."

Kyla then wails *a la* Alicia Keys with "Fallin." Her fans get more excited as she delivers her latest single, "I Will Be There." And everybody applauds as the Toy Symphony band plays the opening strains of Nina's breakout tune "Jealous," and Nina re-enters the stage to sing the number with Kyla.

The cheering goes on as Nina interprets Kyla's signature song "Hanggang Ngayon." They end the number together.

Nina launches into her J.Lo medley, confidently showing off her terpsichorean skills. Kyla replies with her Destiny's Child medley—with tentative moves, though. She may have concentrated more on the tricky tunes.

More self-assured

We also find her mumbling the words to most of her songs and spiels. Nina appears to be more self-assured. All those years she spent fronting various bands have paid off.

The rivals also compete in doing the best duet with guest artist Luke Mejares, who performs one number with each girl. Luke then announces that the show's stars will next do Mariah Carrey songs.

They sound more heartfelt than the original, and when they belt out "Butterfly" together, they are surprisingly restrained.

Impromptu number

Luke rejoins the girls for Boyz2Men's "Four Seasons of Loneliness" and "End of the Road." Jaya, who's one of the celebrities in the audience, is persuaded to render an impromptu number, "Through the Fire."

Kyla and Nina finally cap the evening with the ballad "Only Hope" and a string of dance tunes, leveling off the competition in the process.

Both artists are clearly on their way to musical stardom. It's up to them if they turn their competition into motivation. Rivalry, after all, has helped Gary Valenciano and Martin Nievera become enduring pop stars. In the end, it's the public that triumphs, because they get the best entertainment.

NINA AND KYLA. Clearly on their way to musical stardom.

Maryland Film Festival documentaries . . .

From page G1

the Islamic elder, Hadji Ahmed Shamsadin.

Fundamentalist

"If you saw him on television, you might think of him, with his gray beard, as a fundamentalist, but he turned out to be the most extraordinary, generous host," Davies said.

"Afghan Stories" will premiere May 19 on the Sundance Channel, while "Life After War" was only completed about a month and a half ago and has not yet found a distributor.

It follows Sarah Chayes, a former National Public Radio reporter who left journalism to work for Afghans for a Civil Society, a relief organization headed by Qayum Karzai of Baltimore, a brother of Afghan president Hamid Karzai.

Director Brian Knappenberger watches as Chayes battles to rebuild a village near the Kandahar airport. She runs into obstacles at every turn, and when the movie ends with just one of the 13 houses rebuilt—for Haji Babba, a spry, feisty 85-year-old—it seems a triumph on a Herculean scale.

For Qayum Karzai, warlords are the biggest impediment to stability, and there's evidence in "Life After War" to prove his point. A warlord, Gul Agha Shirzai, commandeers a mountain range, preventing Chayes' workers from getting the stone they need to rebuild the village and forcing a quarry owner at gunpoint to abandon his business.

"Everything the Taliban did, the warlords do exactly—to human rights, to personal property, to individual freedom," Karzai said. "In the minds of the people, it creates an enormous suspicion about stability . . . They can exclude the population from participating in the rebuilding process."

Access

Chayes refuses to be intimidated, marching into Gul Agha Shirzai's headquarters to demand access to the stone. The warlord forces Chayes to wade through a morass of bureaucracy, but eventually she succeeds.

Knappenberger came away impressed by Chayes' tenacity. "Sarah, not only is she an American, she's a very focused and intense individual, and she's wearing a turban, which is a macho, manly thing. That really causes a sensation in Afghanistan. It's like seeing a cross-dresser," he said.

Knappenberger hopes that his film can raise awareness of how much work needs to be done to bring stability to Afghanistan.

"There's so much attention and so many resources being paid to Iraq that Afghanistan really is being neglected," Knappenberger said. "I think the parallels between Afghanistan and Iraq are pretty direct. In both cases, you have a country that's coming out of a strong, centralized, authoritative regime, that is dominated by tribal loyalties and religious sects, and it's on the verge of tipping into chaos."

AP

Odd, unsatisfying . . .

From page G1

ness.

Yet it's Pacino whom the crowds have come to see, and he cuts quite a figure on stage. Dressed in a tieless, black tuxedo and black shirt, the actor lounges on a chair draped in crushed red velvet and proclaims his love for the petulant Salome in his best morose, tough-guy accent.

The effect is weirdly disconcerting: Michael Corleone trapped in ancient times. And you wonder how seriously to take it since Pacino, using an affected seesaw voice, seems to be playing everything for easy laughs.

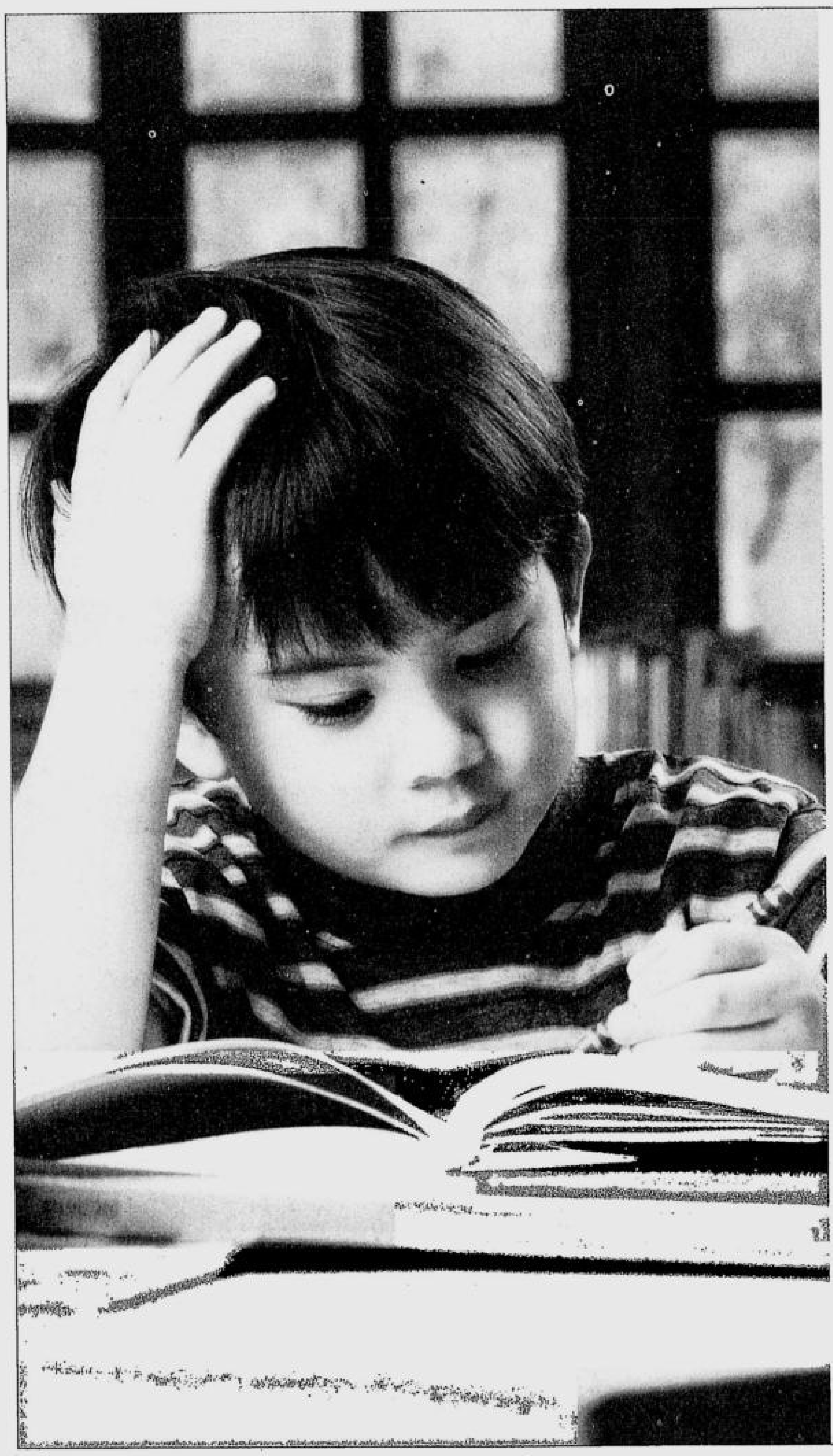
Mock seriousness

A chorus of men, wearing business suits that make them look like Wall Street executives, sits behind the star and portrays assorted Nazarenes, Sadducees and other folk. There's a mock seriousness to their delivery of lines that makes the evening seem even more pretentious.

Wiest, dressed in a regal, dark gown, comes off best, injecting some dignity into the role of Herod's embittered helpmate. Tomei appears lost, hampered by an odd, singsong voice that suggests Valley Girl rather than youthful temptress. But then Estelle Parsons has directed the proceedings with minimal interference, although there is one nice effect when Jokanann's severed head seems to float in space.

Pacino did "Salome" on Broadway once before—in 1992 at Circle in the Square. It was a far more campy production. Back then, the actors wore biblical costumes that made them look as if they just had stepped out of a Cecil B. De Mille epic. Be grateful for small favors with this unsatisfying revival.

AP



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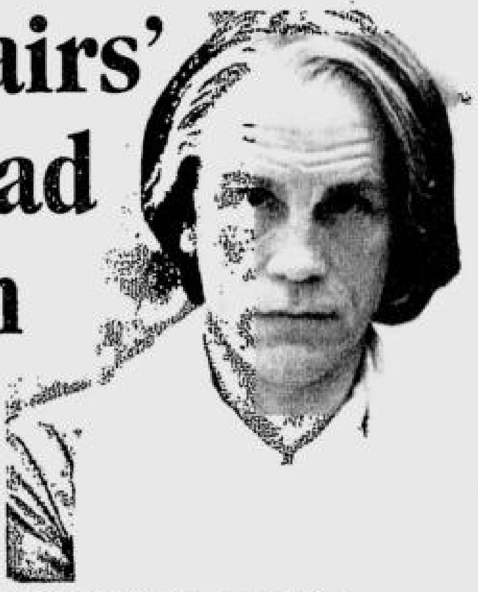
SATURDAY *Special*

'The Dancer Upstairs' gets inside the head of John Malkovich

JAVIER Bardem and Laura Morante star in "The Dancer Upstairs." AP



MALKOVICH. Directorial debut.

By Anthony Breznican

LOS ANGELES—Now's your chance to really see through the eyes of John Malkovich.

Behind the camera

The actor, who allowed his identity to be hijacked for the surreal 1999 comedy "Being John Malkovich," has taken to being behind the camera to direct "The Dancer Upstairs."

Performing in his directorial debut, though, was never a consideration.

"I had no intention of being in it ever," he said during an interview on the outdoor patio of a Los Angeles hotel, where he neatly breaks the filter off his cigarette before smoking.

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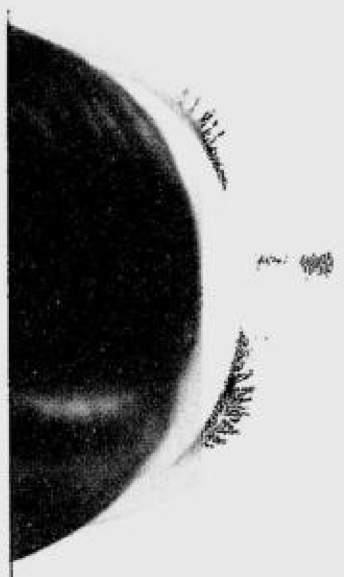

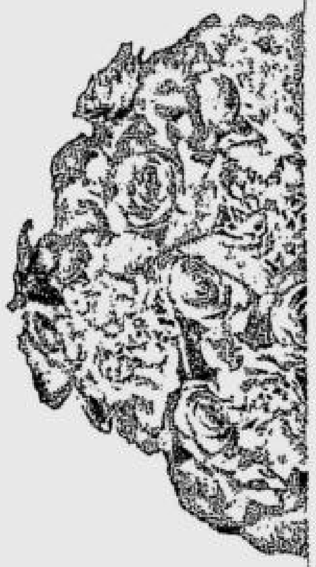

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Like the singer-actor himself, observances of Bing Crosby's 100 years are laid-back

By Bob Thomas

HILLSBOROUGH, California—In a glade of towering eucalyptus trees south of San Francisco looms the Bing Crosby manor, its tall red-brick facade and peaked gray-blue slate roof resembling a stately house of England.

This was the main home for the singer-movie star, who was born 100 years ago on May 2.

Or was he?

Grave marker

"I've always believed that he was born in 1904, and that's the way his grave marker reads," says his widow, Kathryn Crosby. "But the reference books say 1903. That's all right; we'll celebrate his 100th all year and into 2004."

Bing Crosby became the 20th century's first multimedia star, vaulting to stardom when radio was coming into its own in the early 1930s.

His ba-ba-ba-boo style of crooning was heard everywhere, inspiring a future generation of singers, especially Frank Sinatra, who idolized him. Crosby's records reached the top of the charts 38 times. And for years "White Christmas" remained the top-selling record of all time. (After 55 years, it was finally supplanted by "Candle in the Wind '97"—Elton John's tribute CD to Princess Diana.)

Movie musicals

Crosby also rode the wave of movie musicals, which had come into vogue with the arrival of talkies. For 13 years he was among the top 10 box-office stars and for five years in the 1940s reigned at No. 1. He smoothly made the transition from radio to television, including his own ABC sitcom in the mid-'60s and numerous specials and guest appearances.

The Hillsborough house could qualify as a Crosby museum, albeit an utterly private one. The centerpiece is Crosby's second-floor office. Standing on the fireplace mantel is his Oscar for best actor of 1944 as the singing priest in "Going My Way." On one wall, framed sheet music of his early hits: "The Old Ox Road," "June in January," "Please," "Thanks." On another wall, gold records and a large painting of a pensive Bing that was used to advertise his 1953 film, "Little Boy Lost." Showcases are full of trophies for golf tournaments and horse races.

BOB Hope (left) and Crosby co-starred in a number of very popular comedy-musical movies.

"We fell in love with this house and bought it shortly after Bing and I were married in 1957," remarked Kathryn Crosby, 69, who was Crosby's second wife (his first wife, Dixie, with whom he had four sons, died in 1952). "Bing loved to buy houses, the bigger the better."

They ended up with a string of homes from nearby Pebble Beach to a Nevada ranch to a vacation spot in Mexico.

Illustrated book

She has published an illustrated book, "My Last Years With Bing," which tells of an unusual marriage. As Kathryn or Kathy Grant, she had appeared in leading roles in 1950s movies. And she continued working in films, television and theater after the wedding.

CROSBY'S wife, Kathryn, has published an illustrated book, "My Last Years with Bing."

"That made Bing uncomfortable," she recalled. "He said, 'I can support my wife.' I said, 'I want to work because I want to work.' Whenever I took a job, he would take one child to Hawaii. It was a wonderful experience for the children.

"Whenever we were apart, he wrote to me every day, and I did the same to him."

In March 1977, Crosby fell into an orchestra pit during a TV show but soon recovered. The following October, he announced he was going pheasant shooting in Spain. Once there, he attended Mass in Madrid and then played golf at a country club, collapsing and dying of a heart attack immediately afterward.

Crosby's reputation as an easygoing singer of romantic ballads was eroded in 1983 when oldest son, Gary, from his first marriage, wrote "Going My Own Way," in which he described Bing as an abusive father—physically and mentally. Since Bing's death, biographies have claimed that he could be cold and aloof to his sons and co-workers.

Framed letter

Mrs. Crosby denies assertions that her husband was a cold person. She produced a framed letter written by hand after a tiff in their courtship. It said: "I guess this will be my last letter to you, since you won't see me. I do feel I should tell you what I want to say. I want to marry you any time, any place you wish . . ."

Crosby centennial observances seem modest and laid-back, not unlike the man himself. Throughout his long celebrity, Crosby seemed uneasy in the spotlight, and tried, often vainly, to shield his private life from the glare.

His alma mater is observing Crosby's 100th. Gonzaga University, near Spokane, Washington, will feature a weekend of screenings, symposiums and music May 16-18 for its most famous alumnus. Mrs. Crosby, Rich Little, Frank Sinatra Jr. and others will share their memories of Der Bingle.

Although Gonzaga students may not be familiar with Crosby's music, they pass his likeness every day. Outside the Crosby Student Center stands a bronze statue of him with pipe and hat, golf clubs at hand, looking as if he's ready for a round of his favorite sport.

In November, Hofstra University on New York's Long Island hosted a commemorative program, and among those present were Mrs. Crosby; Fred Astaire's daughter, Ava McKenzie; Irving Berlin's daughter, Linda Emmet; and musicians such as Buddy Bregman, Joe Bushkin and Skitch Henderson, who called Crosby "the most disciplined performer I ever worked with."

Two-CD collections

Decca Records, which released Crosby's early and mid-career recordings, has issued two-CD collections of Crosby songs. Capitol Records has marketed a group of Crosby recordings, with another coming May 20.

On Monday, Universal Home Video is releasing DVDs of his films including "Rhythm on the River," "Blue Skies" and "Birth of the Blues." The company also has released DVDs of Bob Hope movies in honor of his 100th birthday May 29, including four "Road" pictures with Crosby.

But these honors seem muted compared with the hoopla attending Hope's 100th anniversary, including a prime-time TV special, civic events and numerous other salutes.

Richard Schickel, film historian and Time magazine critic, offered an explanation for the discrepancy.

Old-fashioned

"One thing is obvious: Hope is still alive, Bing isn't," he replied. "His music is kind of old-fashioned, not as hip as Sinatra. Also there were rumors that Crosby was snappish and not particularly warm-spirited. There was the tell-all book that his son Gary wrote about 'how Pop beat me and was mean to me' . . . Those things slightly polluted Crosby's image."

Crosby also lacked Hope's engaging personality, observed Charles Champlin, who interviewed the singer for Life magazine and the Los Angeles Times.

"Hope had an instinctive gift for outreach. I don't think Bing ever had that," Champlin said. "He was a very, very private guy, aloof and austere."

Yet to the people in fan clubs that still exist, Crosby remains the troubadour who warmed their lives in times of Depression, war and recovery. *AP*

Hardworking dogs featured in NGC show

By Noelani Torre

THERE are a lot of crappy shows on television today, but one of the few channels you can depend on for high quality, entertaining programs is the National Geographic Channel.

Sharks

Oh, sure, we're all tired of the sharks, snakes and crocs that they keep featuring, but even fish and reptiles are more interesting when compared to the obnoxious humans on the other (local, especially) channels.

One of the shows they telecast that gives good, clean entertainment is the often amusing and always informative "Dogs with Jobs." Most people have a soft spot for dogs, and we're one of them—especially when they're as fascinating and hardworking as the admirable creatures frequently featured on this show.

This is a program that the whole family can appreciate. Kids are always interested in animals, and the theme—dogs who work—is an interesting one for adults as well.

Upbeat

The show runs for only half an hour, so they can only feature a few dogs at a time, but the pace is fast and the delivery upbeat. In the last episode we watched, they featured three worthy canines—an "extreme sports" champ, a service dog, and a stress reliever.

The first, Part-Ex (short for Part Exchange) is a formidable little Jack Russell terrier from Cornwall, England who holds an impressive Guiness record for being the Most Extreme Sports Dog.

DOG undergoes training for specialized tasks featured on National Geographic Channel program.

This small creature goes surfing, cliff-jumping, water-skiing—etc.! He looks simply adorable on water skis.

However, we're not sure what his job really is, except maybe being a companion to his sport aficionado owner—and providing a cute illustration of the phrase, "mad dogs and Englishmen."

Golden retriever Bingo, on the other hand, is a dog with a definite job. She's a part of the Kids and Canines Program in the States, which lets delinquent kids take care of and train service dogs for the handicapped.

The program's organizers believe that this helps steady the kids and teaches them about sharing and responsibility. It seems to be working, as Bingo and teenage trainer Noah demonstrate.

The boy was already taking to the streets before he was selected to join the program—and, as he admitted, Bingo has helped a great deal towards calming him down ad making him realize his mistakes.

More patient

We think it's a smart program. There's nothing like the undemanding reality of a gentle dog to make one feel more human. And as kids like Noah groom, feed and train their dogs, the canines are also training them to be more patient and goal-oriented.

It's a win-win situation, and the only downer is when training is over and the kids let their dogs go. They went pretty emotional at the "graduation" ceremonies—but they knew their charges were going to people who really needed them.

The last dog featured, Morgan, works in more glamorous surroundings. He's the official "stress reliever" of a hotel in Vancouver, British Columbia, though this isn't his first job.

Morgan was set on the path of being a guide dog for the blind, but that career was nipped in the bud when he failed guide school. (We wonder how he felt about that!)

In any case, we humans are greater opportunists than dogs, so it wasn't long before someone thought of letting him work at the hotel as a stress reliever for harried guests and their bored children, and as hotel mascot and "star" attraction.

Good points

What we found amusing about this was that his owner, who also works at the hotel, has to do an employee evaluation on him every quarter! Morgan has a lot of good points—he's friendly, charming, playful, and great with kids. But he also has not so desirable traits such as always wanting to be the center of attention—and a prodigious appetite! (He sometimes steals food from the guests, and unabashedly charms them into giving him more.)

He's also not the first dog to hold that post, but his predecessor was fired for being too shy! (Now he's unemployed and hangs around under tables in shame.)

This is truly a charming show, and we also appreciate the fact that it acknowledges the numerous and varied services that man's best friend gives us, practically free of charge. So, really, wouldn't you rather watch shows like this than a drippy soap or a gossipfest?

'The Dancer Upstairs' gets inside the head of John Malkovich

From page H1

Wearing an off-white suit and blue tie, the 49-year-old actor answers questions while sitting almost totally still—apart from his eyes, which dart intently while he speaks.

Asked if he had an aversion to directing himself, Malkovich nodded. "I have a huge aversion to even working with myself, or looking at myself, or listening to myself." (Maybe he's joking, but his blank expression doesn't betray anything.)

Political thriller

"The Dancer Upstairs," a romantic political thriller based on Nicholas Shakespeare's 1997 novel, stars Javier Bardem as a married detective who falls in love with his daughter's dance teacher while searching for the leaders of a violent uprising in an unspecified Latin American country.

The story is inspired by a 12-year campaign of car bombings, political assassinations and massacres in Peru by a Maoist group known as the Shining Path, which ended with a series of arrests in 1992.

In "The Dancer Upstairs," Malkovich said he was captivated by the detective's workmanlike approach to capturing the terrorist leader and the way his love affair overshadows that pursuit.

"In the end the film is about corruption and almost no one . . ." He pauses, thinking. "Very few people," he begins again, "except maybe missionaries believe in what they're doing in a profound sense. They just don't think about it. I wanted the writing and the structure of the story to reflect that actuality."

Right words

Malkovich often falls silent while searching for the right words. Sometimes after shorter answers, he purses his lips—bristling his thin, graying beard—and rotates his eyes skyward, as if scanning his brain for more information.

Bardem, who filmed "The Dancer Upstairs" before receiving his best-actor Oscar nomination for 2000's "Before Night Falls," described Malkovich as "a man of few words—but very smart and intelligent and creative words."

Circumstances

"This is the story about a man who's trying to be not overwhelmed by the circumstances," Bardem added. "That's something that he really wanted to talk about . . . the story of a man who has control over his life and once he loses this control through love, he loses his life."

"Control" may be the core of Malkovich's persona. He seems resolutely calm, despite a reputation for playing madmen and malcontents such as his Oscar-nominated supporting roles as an embittered blind man in 1984's "Places in the Heart" and the taunting assassin in 1993's "In the Line of Fire."

Two children

Malkovich, who lives in Provence, France, with his partner, Nicoletta Peyran, and their two children, seems to keep his work at arm's length. He has other passions, such as designing menswear, reading and gardening.

He said becoming a movie director was not much of an ambition, although he spent years trying to bring "The Dancer Upstairs" to the screen.

"It was sort of a long time in the making, but I don't really aspire to direct movies," he said. "I wanted to tell specific stories because sometimes for certain things I have a vision of them, and it would be easier if I did it myself." AP

ROBBINS AND SARANDON. Rapped for anti-war views.

Costner defends Robbins, Sarandon

SUNSET, South Carolina—Kevin Costner says no one—including the Baseball Hall of Fame—should single out "Bull Durham" co-stars Tim Robbins and Susan Sarandon for their anti-war views.

15th anniversary

Robbins and Sarandon had been scheduled to appear last weekend in Cooperstown, New York, to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the popular baseball movie.

Letter

Instead, Hall of Fame president Dale Petroskey sent a letter telling them he'd called off the festivities because they had criticized the war in Iraq. He later apologized for not calling them before canceling the event.

Costner, who also starred in the film, said Robbins and Sarandon shouldn't be viewed as targets by those supporting the war.

Thoughtful

"He's a good man and she's a really good woman; she's a thoughtful woman," Costner said Thursday. "We don't need to be separating them from us. We need Tim Robbins and Susan Sarandon."

Costner said he doesn't agree with all that Robbins and Sarandon say, but they have a right to their opinion like everyone in the United States.

Not divisive

Robbins and Sarandon aren't divisive and they don't intend to make others uncomfortable, Costner said. "They're just really voicing that right that we fought a long time ago for." AP

JESUS (Rito Asilo) is besieged by a crowd desperate for miracles.

PHOTOS BY JANICE CRUZ

JINGLE Buena (as Mary, fourth from left) with other cast members at the musical's finale.

'Magnificat' combines power of faith and musical theater

By Noelani Torre

"WAIT!" says a whisper of a shriek. "*Matatapakan mo si Aisha!*" Alas, the warning comes too late, and I practically flatten the tiny four-year-old as I run. There's no time to check for damage, but a quick glance over my shoulder reassures me. Little Aisha lounges on a pile of cloths, oblivious to stampeding actors grabbing palm leaves and stumbling over each other in the dark backstage.

Bright lights

We're in the middle of a performance of Ryan Cayabyab's well-loved musical "Magnificat," at the Cuneta Astrodome. In seconds we have to emerge again before the stage's bright lights come on and make an unseen audience *believe*. It's thrilling, and if it's your first time, terrifying as well. For some of us, it *is* our first time to have anything to do with professional musical theater.

If all started only a few days before the actual show. All we had was a half-remembered script in our head and a few rehearsals before us. The strange thing was that we never thought that we couldn't do it. Everybody, from director to fellow actors, most of whom had been performing "Magnificat" for years, matter-of-factly incorporated us into the production. They didn't raise the issue of whether we could do it, only that we do it *right*.

Professionalism

So we rehearsed—and we were still rehearsing hours before the performance. We could not help but admire the other actors' professionalism. Even though they were tired and sweaty, they kept on rehearsing—of course, the director didn't allow them to give less than their best, either.

"Magnificat" is the story of Mary and Jesus, which most of us practically know by heart. Its very familiarity, however, sometimes makes it difficult to tell because people generally take the familiar for granted. So the actors really have to believe in what they're doing in order to bring everything to life for the audience.

It's tough going at first, especially at the start of the play, when we're more nervous than anything else. But, as we move around the stage and sing our lines, it becomes more and more real. (It also helps a great deal to see one's fellow actors brimming with sincere emotion—one can't help but feel along with them.)

Exits are also difficult, for purely technical reasons. The backdrop on one side and a five-foot drop on the other—what could be more ruinous to a show than a constantly moving backdrop or an actor plunging to one side?

Backstage, things are even more exciting. By the time the first scenes are over, everything is in a state of controlled chaos. In between scenes in the fast-paced show, actors scurry all over the place, trying to keep props, costumes, and themselves in order.

LITTLE Aisha, as the child Jesus, sings with Jingle (left) and Paul Marica.

Palm leaves

And so here we find ourselves, gripping our palm leaves, waiting for our cues, mentally rehearsing our next moves. "*Labas na!*" hisses the person behind me—and we go forth (carefully because the space is small), palm leaves held high.

Another exit—this time, I look out carefully for any four-year-olds who might be lining the way. Aisha is still there, giggling excitedly, but is in no danger of being trampled.

She is actually an important part of the production. She plays a vital role, that of the little Christ child—and she is devastatingly charming at it. Absolutely not somebody to step on, even accidentally!

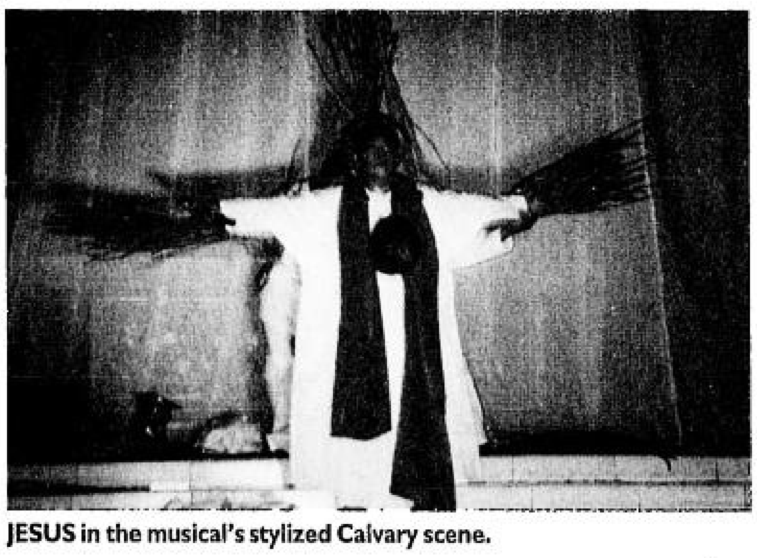
Mishaps like that happen all the time, however, on stage and back, and are remembered with a smile. My first one happened when, while exiting, I inadvertently blew out the candle I was holding. Hot wax sprayed my face from eyebrow to chin, but there was time only for a quick wipe before walking back onstage. As I sang, I could feel it cracking, and all the time I was praying that the audience was too far away to see anything.

It's almost time for the "bloody cloths" (Veronica) scene. Actors grab hold of the pieces of cloth, but there aren't enough to go around. "*Asan ang* bloody cloth *ko?*" one actor whispers frantically. "*Prini*-set *ko na dito kanina!*"

Little culprit

Somebody thinks of lifting Aisha, and the pile she's been lying on is hastily seized. The little culprit giggles.

Near the end of the show, we descend to the audience area and finally get a look at the people who have come to see the story of Mary and Jesus unfold before their eyes. They are smiling, and some of them are drying their eyes. The sight of it gives me a burst of exultation, and as we climb back up the stage, I thrill to the power and beauty of faith and musical theater—combined!



JESUS in the musical's stylized Calvary scene.

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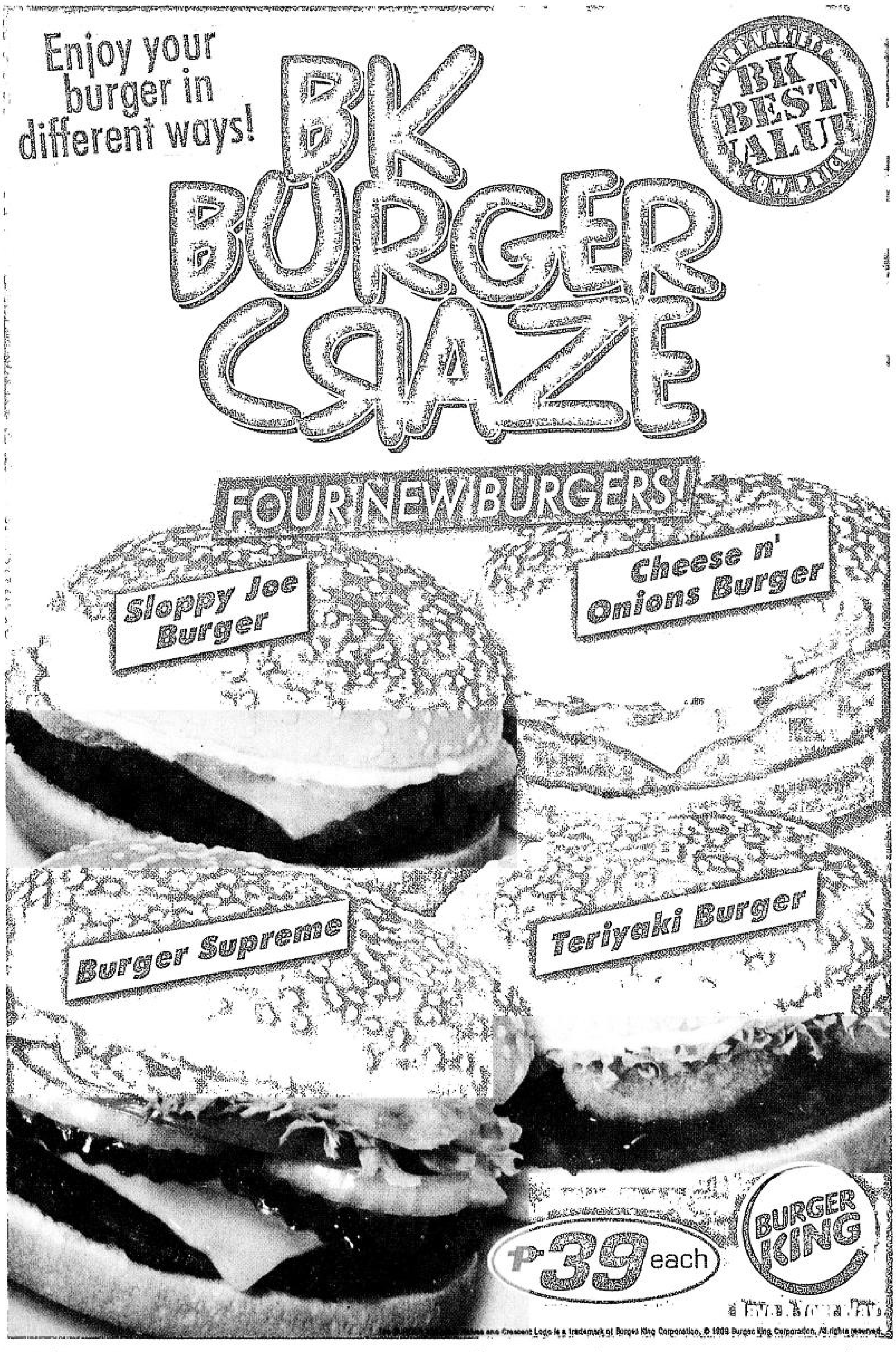

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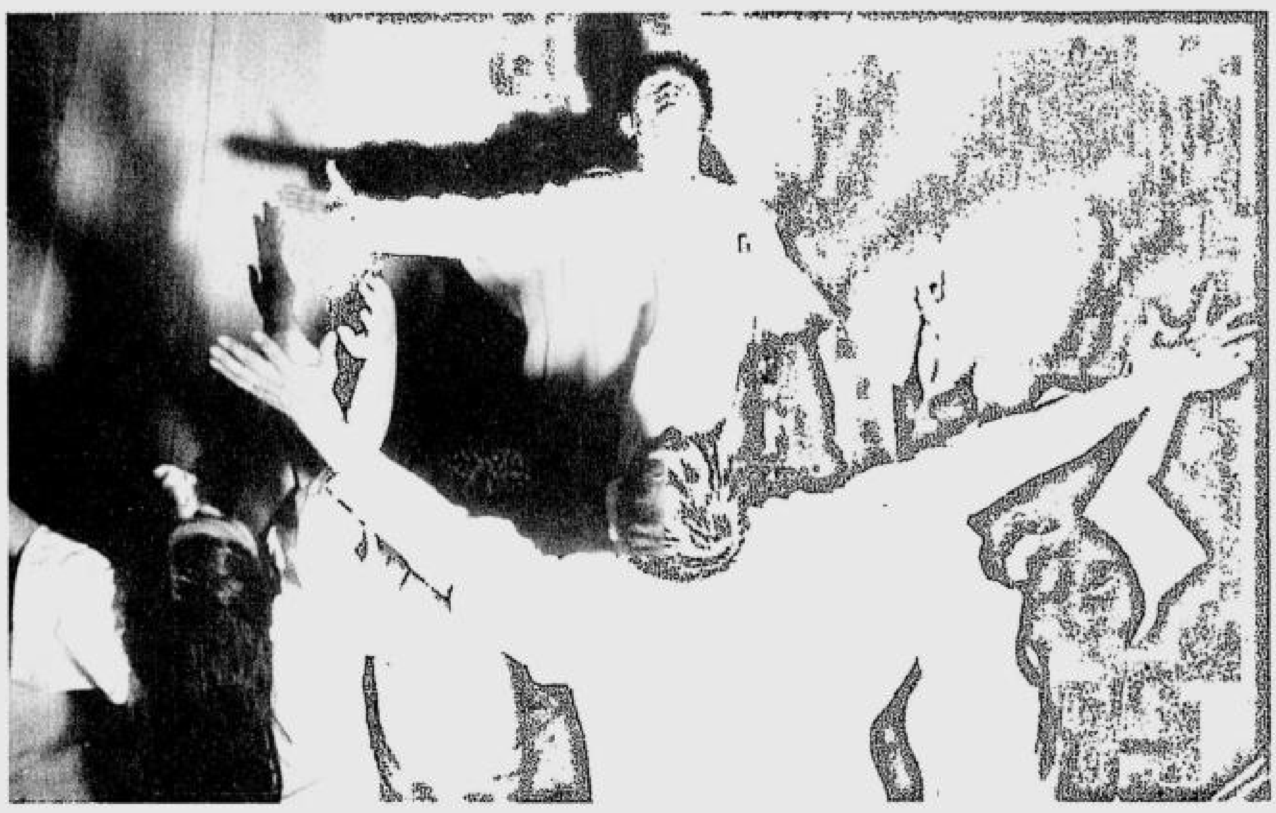

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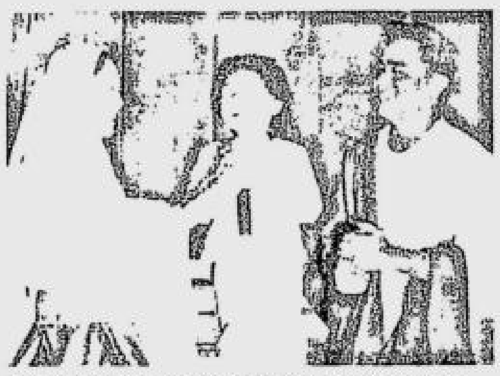

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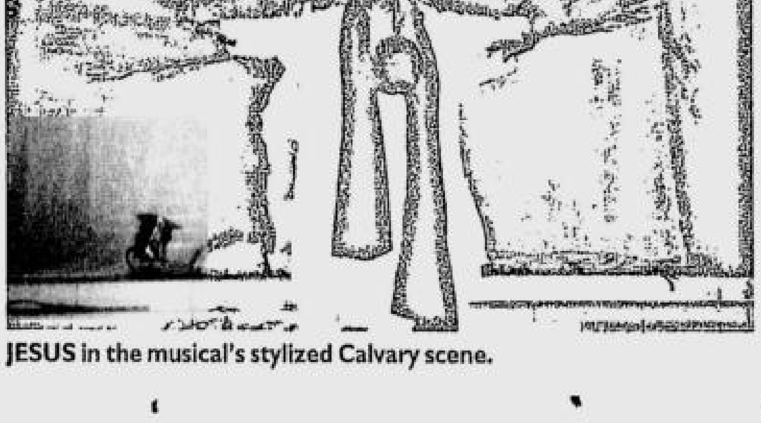

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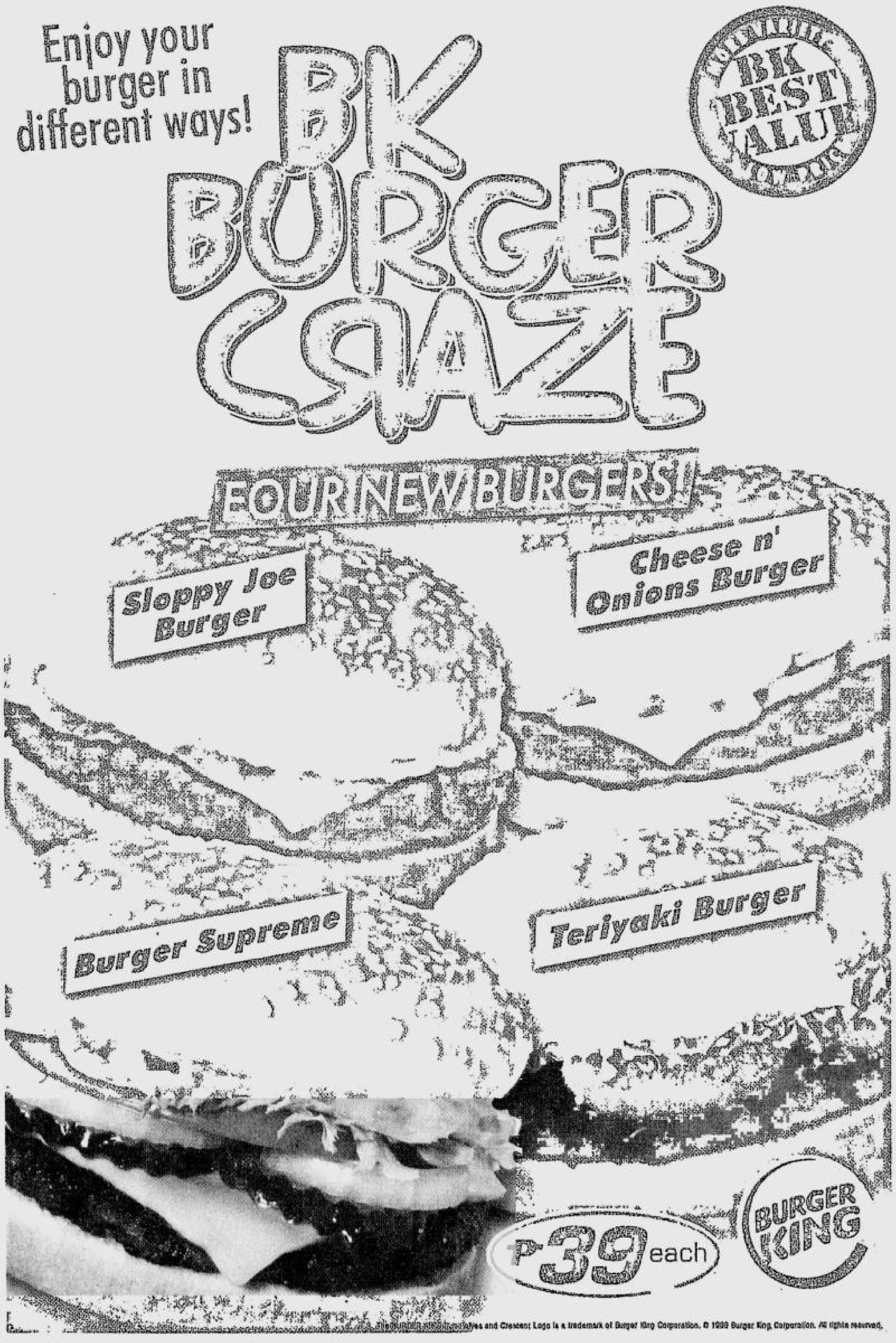

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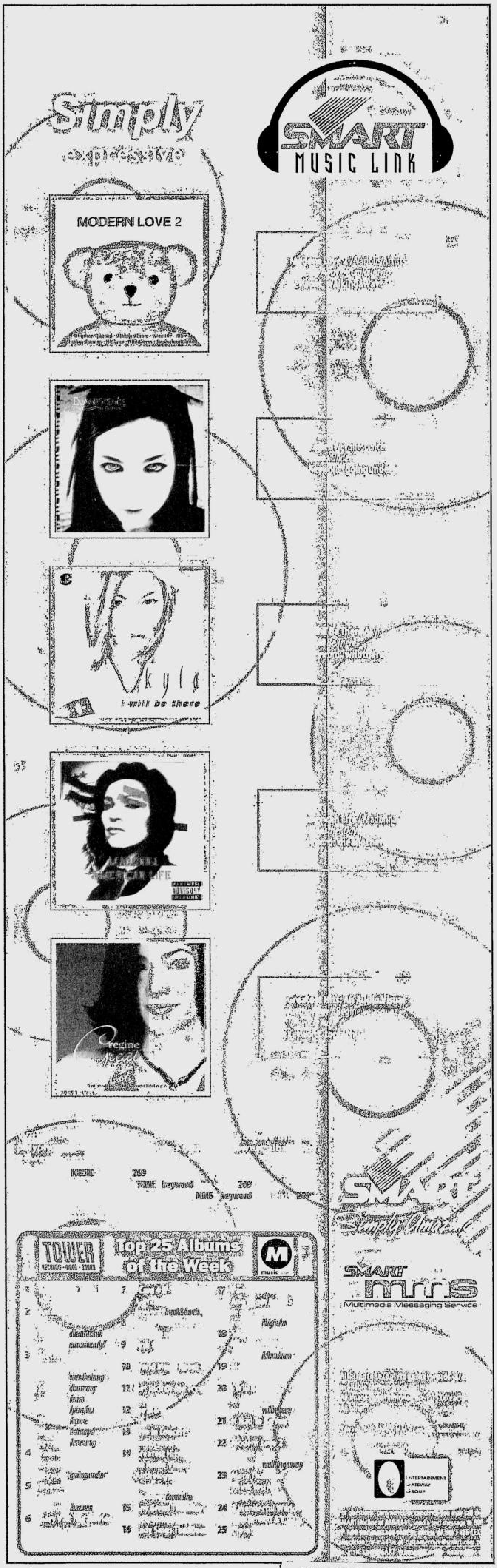
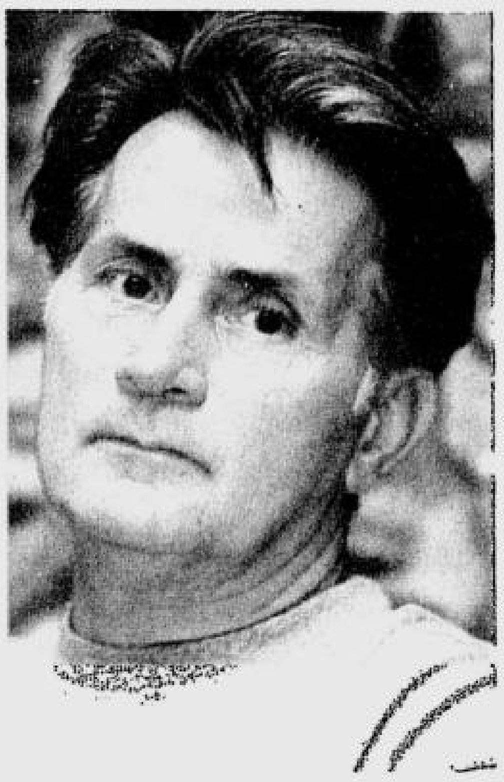


Producer Sorkin leaving NBC's 'The West Wing'

By Steve Gorman



MARTIN Sheen plays US President Josiah Bartlet in the acclaimed drama series.

LOS ANGELES—Aaron Sorkin, creator of the hit NBC political drama "The West Wing," will step down as executive producer of the award-winning series this month at the end of the show's turbulent fourth season, the network and producers said on Thursday.

Surprise

While the announcement came as a surprise to some, Sorkin foreshadowed his own departure last spring when he said during an appearance on NBC's "Today" show that the current season of "West Wing" would probably be his last.

"He clearly had it in the back of his mind that he would do the show for so many seasons and would step away at some point," one network insider said, adding that Sorkin was leaving the show on "wonderful terms."

But his exit comes weeks after reports of friction between Sorkin and Warner Bros. Television, the studio behind the show, over cost overruns related to missed script deadlines as the show slipped in the ratings.

Some critics also complained this season that the drama became too bogged down in political ideology and drawn-out story lines while facing tough competition from popular reality shows such as ABC's "The Bachelor."

Series pilot

Departing with Sorkin will be fellow executive producer Thomas Schlamme, who directed the series pilot and other episodes and also has worked as a director on such programs as "Ally McBeal," "The Practice" and "Spin City."

A third executive producer, John Wells, whose company co-produces "West Wing" with Warner Bros., will step in for Sorkin to take the creative helm of the show.

Both Sorkin and Schlamme, who co-created the ABC comedy "Sports Night," have development deals with Warner Bros.

"This has been the experience of any writer's dream," Sorkin, 41, said in a statement. "I had the best job in show business for four years and I'll never forget that." NBC Entertainment president Jeff Zucker and Warner Bros. TV president Peter Roth saluted Sorkin and Schlamme "for creating one of the finest shows to ever air on television."

"The West Wing," which stars Martin Sheen as US President Josiah Bartlet and portrays the political and personal intrigues of his fictional administration, has earned Sorkin and his creative team the Emmy Award for best drama series for three straight years.

Schlamme twice received the Directors Guild Award plus two Emmys for his work on the series, which also achieved the rare feat of winning the prestigious Peabody Award twice.

Creative rut

Earlier this season, "West Wing" stumbled in the ratings while some critics saw the show as hitting a creative rut, but the series has recovered a bit with a new story arc featuring "Friends" co-star Matthew Perry as a White House counsel.

Earlier this season, co-star Rob Lowe left the series in a salary dispute with producers.

In January, NBC reached a renewal deal with Warner Bros., a unit of AOL Time Warner Inc., to keep "West Wing" on the air for at least two more seasons. Sources said then the network, owned by General Electric Corp., would pay $5 million to $7 million per episode, depending on the show's ratings performance.

While "West Wing" remains one of the most prestigious in NBC's lineup, the drama has sunk to No. 23 in household ratings among all prime-time shows.

Late last year, Sorkin emerged from a personal ordeal, winning dismissal of drug possession charges against him after completing a court-ordered drug rehabilitation program.

Sorkin's previous writing credits include screenplays for the films "American President," "A Few Good Men" and "Malice." ABC is owned by Walt Disney Co. *Reuters*

Hopkins to get award

WAILEA, Hawaii—Oscar-winning actor Anthony Hopkins will be honored at the Maui Film Festival next month with the 2003 Silversword Award.

Hopkins, 65, is slated to attend the Silversword Award Tribute on June 13 at the Grand Wailea Resort Hotel & Spa, festival director Barry Rivers announced over the weekend.

Rare plant

Named for the rare plant that blooms only on the slopes of the Haleakala volcano, the award annually honors an artist for contributions to filmmaking and to positive change in the world. Last year, it was awarded to Clint Eastwood. *AP*

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Elizabeth Ashley tries to make 'April' enchanting

ASHLEY in her dressing room at the Belasco Theater. AP

By Mark Kennedy

NEW YORK—The Belasco Theater is no stranger to quick changes, but none may be quite so striking as the one daily undertaken by Elizabeth Ashley.

Recent performance

Barely 20 minutes after a recent performance of "Enchanted April," she went from a prim, corseted Victorian on stage to a wild headbanger in her dressing room, clad only in a ripped US Marine Corps T-shirt and her undergarments.

"Being an actor in a play is like being in the Marines," the 63-year-old actress explains while puffing a Carlton in a cramped room that can barely contain her energy. "Darling, I'm a gun for hire. Lock and load, baby. Semper fi!"

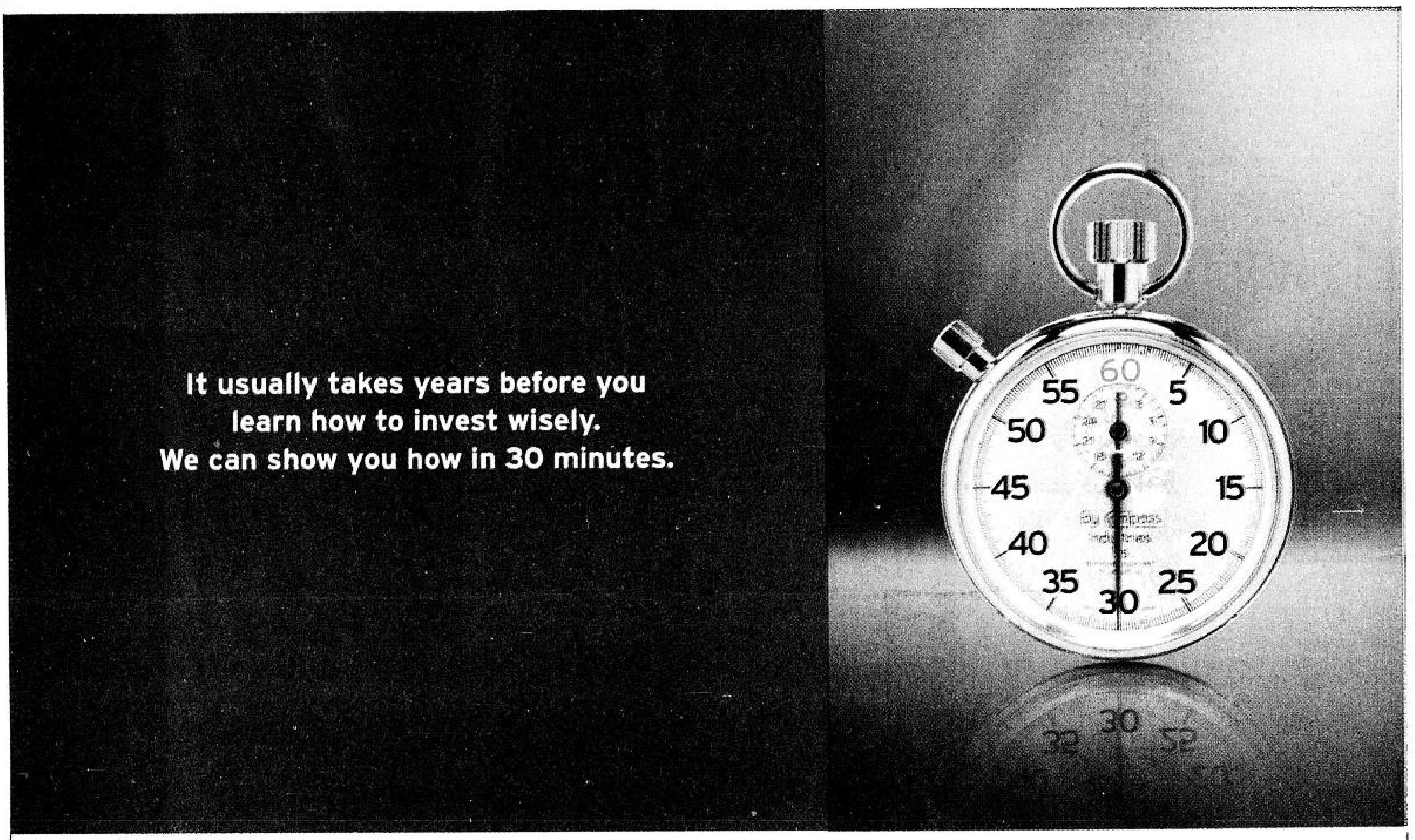
In her inimitable style, Tony Award-winner Ashley has returned to Broadway in a stage adaptation of Elizabeth Von Arnim's novel, playing what she affectionately calls her "first old woman" in a 44-year career.

"Whoever thought an old 'actorette' like me would be working for a living at my age?" she asks. "God knows not me and certainly nobody else. But it's never been about the paycheck. It's about the labor."

Decision

Set in 1922, the play traces the story of four

ELIZABETH/ 12



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How young viewers can gain access to old films

By Clodualdo del Mundo Jr.

(Conclusion)

THE LOVE for film heritage is true in many parts of the globe. Which among these countries in Asia have some form of national film archive? Japan, South Korea, Singapore, India, Philippines, Vietnam, Laos, Mongolia?

All those countries have some form of national archive—except the Philippines.

Preservation

Movies are important cultural artifacts. We're making an argument for their preservation. Here are some reasons: First, we need to remind our young audience that, indeed, we have a past that we can be proud of.

We would like them to see "Giliw Ko," "Genghis Khan," "A Portrait of the Artist as Filipino," "The Moises Padilla Story," "Malvarosa," "Waray-Waray," "Biyaya ng Lupa," "Ganito Kami Noon, Paano Kayo Ngayon?," "Orapronobis," "Kisapmata," "Tatlong Taong Walang Diyos," "Oro Plata Mata," "Manila by Night," "Ang Mababangong Bangungot," and the list goes on and on . . . well, not really.

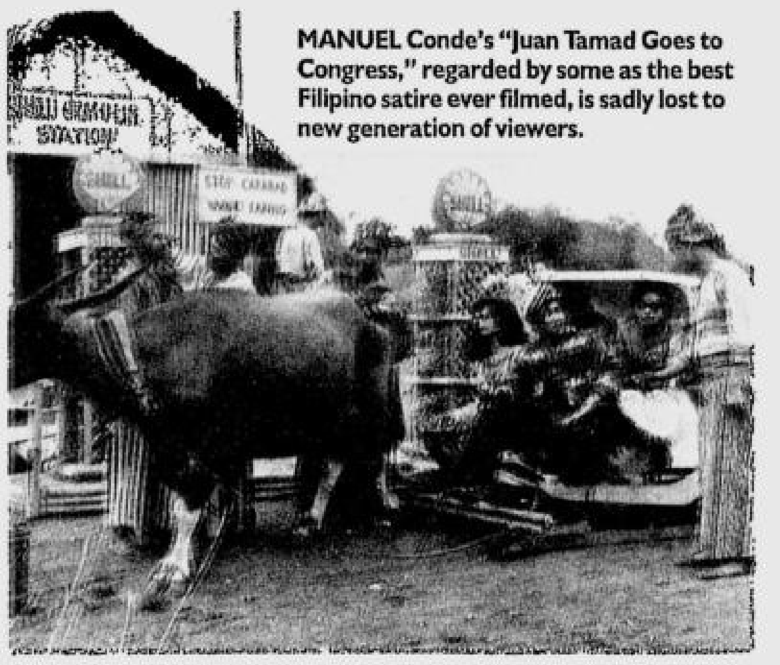
Many films are irretrievably lost: the "Juan Tamad" series, "Prinsipe Amante," "Ifugao," and many others. We are going to apologize to our young audience that we have lost many films for various reasons, including our failure to be more vigilant. But, we have enough to show them—and the world—that, yes, we have a good past in cinema.

Treasure

We also have a lot of trash, if you care to see them. But, thank God, many of them have been taken by their filmmakers to the grave. But, on second thought, one man's trash may be another's treasure. Also, it may be a good idea to preserve a few of these trashy old movies to show the young filmmakers that trash has been done in the past, so they should stop doing it now!

Secondly, we should open the eyes of our young audience to our own old movies because old movies from all over the world are accessible.

They can watch Murnau's "Sunrise" or the latest restored version of Fritz Lang's "Metropolis," Renoir's "Rules of the Game," Truffaut's "400 Blows," Ozu's "Floating Weeds," Kurosawa's "Red Beard," Fellini's "8 ½," "Bergman's "Wild Strawberries," and the list goes on and on . . . including the obscure films of the past. And they can watch these movies in the comfort of their living rooms.


MANUEL Conde's "Juan Tamad Goes to Congress," regarded by some as the best Filipino satire ever filmed, is sadly lost to new generation of viewers.

They can study them, enjoy them, analyze them, again and again. If not on DVD, they can watch out for classic films that are shown in different venues—the Alliance Francaise, the Instituto Cervantes, the Australian Embassy, or the various independent groups; or, they can attend the various annual festivals—the Eiga Sai, the Cinema Europa Festival, the French Film Festival, the Pelikula at Lipunan. It's a pity that our young audience does not have the same kind of access to their own country's old movies.

Opportunities

While there are various opportunities to watch old foreign films, where does our young audience go for old local movies? If you want to watch "Genghis Khan," you can go to the Cinematheque Francais in Paris where a print is available. But you have to know Renoir's language, because the print is the dubbed version in French.

Or, you can hunt for the Filipino who has a print of "Genghis Khan" in its original Tagalog. You have to go to California for this. That enterprising Filipino bought a copy of the extant print from an American distributor. Of course, he's now looking for a buyer who will offer the right price.

If you are a fan of Gloria Romero and other Sampaguita stars, you can check the studio's website and see what films are available. Sampaguita sells VHS copies of their extant films. But, the sale is something like "as is, where is." The copies are not restored versions, they are copies that are a generation or two away from the video copies of films in the Sampaguita archive.

Gems

How do you get to see "Anak Dalita?" Or, "A Portrait of the Artist as Filipino?" And other gems of the LVN Studios? There's no place you can buy a copy. LVN has an archive, but access to the extant films is not possible (yet). You just have to look for video copies that are floating around, or simply wait for these films to be featured in Pelikula at Lipunan or some other festival.

The point is, it is not easy to access old Filipino movies. Why? Because we do not have a national film archive. Why not? Two reasons: First, the country's leaders do not see its value. Secondly, the industry itself is too engrossed in making money that it does not see its value. If the country's leaders do not care, how can we expect our people to care? Well, there are some people who care. And we owe it to our young audience to care for these old movies.

With apologies to Pete Seeger, the singer-poet who wrote "Where have all the flowers gone?" the question that will confront us sooner or later is: "Where have all our movies gone?"

Accusation

I hope my young daughter doesn't ask me that, for it is not going to be a plain and innocent question. There will be a ring of accusation to it. What then would we tell the young audience? Well, children, we've lost them to the elements. We've lost them to the vinegar syndrome. But, isn't vinegar a preservative? It prolongs the shelf-life of *kilawin*, doesn't it?

Well, we're not talking *kilawin* here. We're talking film. And in the world of film, the vinegar syndrome eats away at the emulsion that stores the images and sounds that have entertained, moved, and provoked us in the darkened theaters for over a century. And, beyond that chemical truth, it eats away at the memory of our film treasures.

Elton John, Bernie Taupin doing Broadway Vampire show

By Larry Fine

NEW YORK—Elton John and Bernie Taupin dreamed of writing music to Anne Rice's literary look at vampires more than 25 years ago. Now they will get their wish.

Rock star

The rock star and lyricist partner announced on Tuesday that they are collaborating on a Broadway show based on Rice's "Vampire Chronicles," tentatively titled "The Vampire Lestat," and aimed for the 2005 theatrical season.

John and Taupin stressed the production would have a classical feel and not resemble a rock opera.

"This will be more opera than rock," said Taupin.

The venture will mark the first stage musical for Taupin, whose songs with John have sold over 150 million copies since they began creating hits in the late 1960s. The vampire show will be John's third Broadway musical, following his work on hit shows "The Lion King," and "Aida."

"Bernie and I have been huge fans of Anne Rice's books for a long time," said John. "When I read "Interview with The Vampire," for the first time, I wanted to become a vampire."

First foray

The project, the first foray by producers Warner Bros. Theatrical Ventures into Broadway theater, will also feature a script by Linda Woolverton ("The Lion King," Beauty and the Beast," and "Aida") and will be directed by Robert Jess Roth ("Beauty and the Beast").

"I've spent 10 years looking for the right vehicle," said Taupin, who said he and John had several meetings with Rice back in the 1970s about putting music to her work.

"As things happened, everything went down a different path. Anne is very excited and has given us her blessing."

"The Vampire Lestat," the second book in Rice's series, was published in 1985, nine years after "Interview with The Vampire," which was made into a 1994 movie starring Tom Cruise and Brad Pitt. Her 1988 "Queen of the Damned," was made into a film last year.

Campy musical

Vampires came and went quickly on Broadway this past season, with the short-lived "Dance of the Vampires"—a campy musical that was savaged by critics.

"You're not going to see capes and bats or crosses or tap-dancing vampires," said Taupin.

"This will be dark, sexy and scary, but that doesn't mean it has to be cliched. This is serious, not a parody." Warner Bros. Theatrical Ventures is part of the Warner Bros. Entertainment division of media giant AOL Time Warner. *Reuters*

JOHN AND TAUPIN. Their new work will be "more opera than rock." AFP

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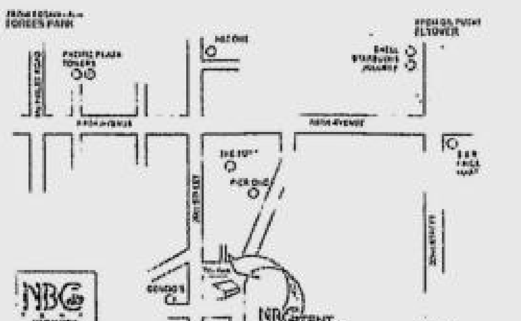

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Elizabeth Ashley tries to make 'April' enchanting

From page I1

well-to-do English women who make a decision that was shocking for that time: to escape dreary London for the month of April and rent a villa in Italy—without the permission of any man.

"It's a fairy tale. It's froth. It's pastry. It's a confection," Ashley says. "It's like a slipper that has to fit just right. It's the opposite of a Doc Martins boot. I like it because it addresses the infinite quandary between men and women."

The play, written by Matthew Barber and directed by Michael Wilson, also stars Jayne Atkinson, Molly Ringwald, Michael Cumpsty, Daniel Gerroll, Dagmara Dominczyk, Michael Hayden and Patricia Conolly.

Ashley plays the oldest of the quartet of vacationing women, a brittle widow seemingly set in her ways who gradually warms both to the climate and her companions. Though in a supporting role, a little bit of Ashley goes a long way.

"I'm the shock-absorber," she says. "The shock-absorbers deliver the message when something's not right with the ride you're having. My character is the shocks in this play because much is revealed about the others by how they respond to her."

Jeffrey Richards, the show's producer who also worked with Ashley on her last Broadway turn in "Gore Vidal's The Best Man," calls the actress one of the sharpest and most astute people in the business.

Opinion

"She's indefatigable in her approach to life. She has an opinion about almost anything and everything, and it's a well-informed opinion. She has lived more in her life than so many people cumulatively," Richards says. "If she were in England, she'd be a dame by now."

Raised in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Ashley arrived in New York City in 1958 craving excitement. "Women who want to be adventuresses and who are poor become actorettes," she explains.

Within two years, she won a Tony for "Take Her, She's Mine" and, in 1963, starred in the original production of "Barefoot in the Park," opposite Robert Redford and directed by Mike Nichols.

Her other Broadway credits include "The Skin of Our Teeth," "Caesar and Cleopatra," "Agnes of God" and a memorable turn as Maggie in "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof," for which she earned a Tony nomination in 1975.

Ashley also has amassed several film roles, including "The Carpetbaggers" and "Ship of Fools," and she earned an Emmy nomination for the television series "Evening Shade," opposite Burt Reynolds.

Ashley was appointed to the first National Council on the Arts under Presidents Kennedy and Johnson. She also wrote her memoir, 1978's "Actress: Postcards From the Road," and can be heard on Lou Reed's CD "The Raven."

Tendency

Ashley was married and divorced twice—to actors James Farentino and George Peppard—and had a tendency to leave the limelight in favor of sailing around the world. She says fame—becoming "the Twinkie of the minute"—made her uncomfortable.

"I'm not a careerist in any sense. I never have been," she says. "I've always been lax about that. I mean, I've retired twice for years at a time . . . I've always been better at life than I've been at career.

"Success? I've never been any good at that, it always frightened me. It always made me uncomfortable, it made me shrivel. For me, it was never about being famous. Trying not to be infamous, perhaps."

The stage repeatedly drew her back. Asked why and she points to the theater's intercom nestled high in her dressing room: "One of my favorite things to hear is, 'Ladies and gentlemen, places please.' I know that one of those places is mine and I know how to go to it and what to do."

Bravery

Despite the years she has dedicated to her craft, Ashley doesn't mince words about the bravery required of her fellow stage actors.

"It's the most courageous thing in the world," she says. "You work like a dog, you sweat like a horse and the rewards never outbalance the brutality. Every time we go to work, we're God's jesters.

"If you lined up a thousand of those short, white guys who own the world and you said, 'OK, here's the deal. You've got one of two choices: I've got an Ingram Mac-10 here with one bullet or you must endure planetary, global ridicule and humiliation on stage,' they'd be begging for the bullet, pal."

As for Ashley, she'll risk global ridicule.

"I regret almost everything but I repent nothing." *AP*

Focus on DVDs, legal and pirated

By Rica Arevalo

BACK in 1997, when DVD first arrived, some people were skeptical about the format. It was expensive and Laserdiscs were the "in" thing. I know a lot of film lovers who collected Laserdiscs, even the Criterion series, during those times. So why would someone switch to DVD?

New format

The new format offered something "entertaining" to the moviegoers. It is small and lightweight but the best thing is its special features. One can watch behind-the-scenes interviews and director's commentary, choose alternative scenes and endings, view production photos and even play PC games. It offers an unprecedented filmic experience for an ordinary moviegoer or die-hard film enthusiast.

There is also an "Easter Egg" (for original DVDs only)—additional features not advertised on the cover, like hidden footage, the trailer of an upcoming film, text pieces about the film, etc.

The main point is for DVD addicts to hunt for those buried "eggs"—and, of course, to enjoy them.

Hilarious gag

In the "Moulin Rouge" DVD (Region 1), all the eggs are in the second disc. If you want to try, select "More" [1], highlight "Back" [2], press "Down" [3], press "Enter"; select "Cutting Room," highlight "Main Menu," press "Left," press "Enter." The good "egg" is a hilarious gag [4] of Nicole Kidman and Ewan McGregor shooting the song, "Come What May."

DVD also has an encoded regionalization. Here in the Philippines, we are in Region 3. The bad thing about it is, when you buy original DVDs in the US or Canada (Region 1), there's a big chance that you cannot view them on your player. It somehow forgets that you have forked out hard-earned cash for your legally-bought DVDs. Therefore, you *should* be allowed to play them in whatever country you're in!

On piracy: Pirated DVDs are all over the place. These discs can be played on any DVD player because the regions were decoded by the "pirates," which is very convenient.

I have had very long discussions on several occasions with a city mayor regarding the purchase of pirated DVDs. I, for one, am against it. But he told me that we are in an open-market economy. Everyone is allowed to enjoy and watch Hollywood films for a cheaper price. Why would someone shell out P1,000 for an original DVD when you can buy it at P65? He may have a point, so I visited the "haven" of pirated DVDs in Quiapo.

Piles

In a makeshift store, piles of CDs, VCDs and DVDs were all over the place. The sellers even did the repacking of the discs out on the street. It was Holy Week but the place was alive and full of people.

Roman Polanski's "The Pianist" was there. Mira Nair's "Monsoon Wedding" was available. Pedro Almodovar's "Talk To Her" was on sale. So, why would a moviegoer wait for these films to be shown in theaters? One doesn't have to go abroad to see these films or even order them on the internet. They are all here!

When I checked the pirated copies, they were clear. It was like an original copy, although there were less special features, or sometimes none. If people can access these good films at a very low price, then I hope that the level of film appreciation of the masses will also improve. Our directors and writers can also get a tip or two from those pirated copies of critically-acclaimed foreign films, if they patronize them.

Piracy has negative effects on the economy, intellectual property rights and the local movie industry. It would take a really collective effort from the government, educators, the public, etc., to solve this monstrous problem.

"MOULIN ROUGE." In the film's DVD, the additional features are in the second disc.

Al Pacino voted greatest film star

LONDON—"Godfather" star Al Pacino has been named the greatest movie star of all time in a poll of British film fans.

Italian-American Pacino topped the Channel 4 television poll to find the 100 greatest movie stars, followed by Robert de Niro, who played his father in "The Godfather II." The results, broadcast last Sunday and Monday, reflected a strong bias toward the current generation of male actors.

Gritty roles

Known for a string of gritty roles, Pacino, 63, was twice nominated for an Oscar for his performances as Michael Corleone in Francis Ford Coppola's "Godfather" movies, but did not win.

Pacino picked up an Oscar in 1992 for a more tender role as embittered blind army veteran in "Scent of a Woman"

Tom Hanks and Kevin Spacey came in at Nos. 3 and 4, followed by Harrison Ford and Jack Nicholson in fifth and sixth position.

More than 25,000 votes were cast in the poll. The highest placed British star was Anthony Hopkins at No. 7, ahead of Sean Connery at eight and Ewan McGregor at nine.

The 32-year-old Scottish actor was the youngest Top 10 entry. Cary Grant, star of classics such as "North by Northwest," was the highest posthumous placing at No. 10.

No actresses

There were no actresses in the Top 10. "Breakfast at Tiffany's" star Audrey Hepburn was the highest female entry at No. 13, while Sigourney Weaver, best known for her roles in the "Alien" movies, took 20th place.

This year's Oscar winner Catherine Zeta-Jones did not make the list, but her husband Michael Douglas came in at No. 100.

The list of candidates was compiled by a panel of film critics and filmmakers, with voting taking place on the Channel 4 website and by text message over a six-week period.
Reuters

PACINO. Two Oscar nominations for "Godfather" performances.

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Polanski credits his return to Polish roots for film's success

By Monika Scislowska

WARSAW, Poland—Director Roman Polanski on Friday credited his return to his Polish roots for the success of "The Pianist," which recently won him an Oscar—although he has yet to get his hands on the statuette.

Two-day visit

The Polish-born Polanski, on a two-day visit to Warsaw, spoke at a meeting with about 300 students at Warsaw University. "The Pianist," based on the memoirs of a Polish Jew who survived the Nazi occupation, premiered in the Polish capital last September.

"The success of my film is probably due to my return to my own roots," said Polanski, who met Friday with Prime Minister Leszek Miller.

The movie, shot on location in Warsaw and at the Babelsberg studio near Berlin, tells the story of Wladyslaw Szpilman, who survived the destruction of the Warsaw Ghetto due in part to his musical gift—a tale that in some ways mirrors Polanski's own experiences during World War II. Polanski himself escaped the horrors of Krakow's Jewish ghetto, sheltered by Polish families in the countryside.

Huge applause

Polanski's Oscar for best director was greeted with huge applause at the Academy Awards ceremony. However, the director said Friday he hasn't yet received the statuette.

After pleading guilty to having sex with a 13-year-old girl in 1977, Polanski fled Los Angeles for Paris to evade sentencing, fearing that the judge would disregard a plea bargain with prosecutors and sentence him to prison. He still faces arrest if he returns to the United States.

Polanski refused to respond when asked if he regretted having been unable to attend the Academy Awards ceremony.

The director, who lives in Paris with his wife, the actress Emmanuelle Seigner, and two children, was keen to reassure his audience ahead of a June referendum that joining the European Union next year won't kill Poland's culture and traditions.

"There is no need to fear that," Polanski said. "Joining the EU is the only option for our future." *AP*

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EWTN's wimpled wonder has lived an eventful life

By Noelani Torre

MOTHER Angelica (left) with Pope John Paul II.

YOU'RE bound to have seen Mother Angelica on cable TV at one time or another. This plump-cheeked and very jolly nun, whose wit and lighthearted style make her a refreshing alternative to your typical dry and sober religious program host, is the central figure at the Eternal Word Television Network, or EWTN.

80th birthday celebration

We were able to catch her 80th birthday celebration recently, and Mother, though largely silent because of a recent stroke, seemed as ebullient as ever. Even more impressive to see was the outpouring of love and appreciation from people all over the world whose lives she and her network have touched.

This wimpled wonder isn't just a TV host, she's also the founder of EWTN itself and more recently, of a shortwave radio network.

Time magazine calls her "Catholicism's top producer," but there's more to her than that, and in Dan O'Neill's biography, "Mother Angelica, Her Life Story" (EWTN), we learn a great deal about the fascinating Mother Angelica and why, despite pain and the onset of old age, she remains a highly motivated person.

Instability

She was born Rita Rizzo on April 20, 1923 to Italian immigrant parents in Canton, Ohio. Her childhood was a time of upheaval and instability—her father abandoned her and her mother, Mae, when she was still very young, and her parents' subsequent divorce when she was six further added to the turmoil in her life.

The fact that her mother was a divorced woman didn't make it any easier for them. "Divorce back then," Mother Angelica explains, "was practically the worst sin a person could commit. It just wasn't done, especially if you were Catholic, which we were. We were stigmatized, almost shunned."

Young Rita had to learn to be independent early on as her mother grew more despondent and relied more and more on her. She was a loner, miserable in school, and struggling with poverty. Yet despite all this, she and her mother kept their faith in God.

Mother Angelica considers the miraculous disappearance of her chronic stomach pain as the turning point in her life. It irrevocably changed her life, and though she continued as before—going to school and eventually working in advertising—she soon realized that she was meant for other things.

Strict

"It was like a simple fact," she said, "as if I had the unquestioning knowledge that I was to be a nun. What? A nun? I couldn't believe it! I didn't like nuns at all. In fact, I hated them. They seemed so strict and angry—I had a real problem with those people, and yet I knew I was to become one of them."

And become one she did, though even the road to that was a thorny one to take. Her mother was adamantly opposed to the idea, so Rita had to resort to underhanded ways so she could become a postulant at Cleveland's Adoration Monastery of the contemplative order of Franciscan nuns. For months, the two were estranged, until Mae finally accepted the fact that her daughter was truly called by God.

Sister Rita didn't have an easy time at the monastery, though she was happy there. Her chronic health problems—inflamed knee joints in particular—made it difficult for her to kneel and perform the required physical tasks, but she never complained or faltered in her duties. Finally, when she was accepted as a novice, Rita Rizzo became Sister Mary Angelica of the Annunciation and entered the cloister to serve God.

Pain

"It is pain that has taught me most," said Mother Angelica. "I can barely remember a time in my life when I haven't had it in some form. I think God uses it to get my attention—you know, like a two-by-four between the eyes!"

The event that would take the then Sister Angelica out of the cloister began with pain. She had a congenital spinal defect that was exacerbated by her fall on a soapy floor. She had to undergo surgery, but there was a 50-50 chance that she wouldn't be able to walk after it. Desperate, she pleaded with God, saying: "Please, Lord Jesus, if you allow me to walk again I will build a monastery for your glory. And I will build in the South!" *(To be concluded)*

PARMINDER Nagra, left, and Johnathan Rhys-Meyers, in Gurinder Chadha's film.

'Bend It Like Beckham' kicks off wider US release

By Anthony Breznican

LOS ANGELES—Who is this Beckham, and what exactly is he bending?

That's what American moviegoers might wonder as the burgeoning sleeper hit "Bend It Like Beckham," a British comedy about soccer-playing girls, opens wider in US theaters this weekend.

Captain

The "Beckham" of the title is David Beckham, captain of England's national soccer team and star of Manchester United—he's the equivalent of Michael Jordan or Tiger Woods in America. Beckham also is known as Mr. Posh Spice, husband of Spice Girls singer Victoria Adams.

"Bend It" refers to his signature curling free kicks, which rack up goals from far afield by curving around would-be defenders.

"It's something that my character, Jess, tries to emulate, and it's a metaphor for bending the rules," said Parminder Nagra, who stars as the rebellious daughter of a traditionalist Indian Sikh family in England.

The parents object to her character's tomboyish behavior and want her to focus, like her older sister, on finding a good Indian husband.

Dream

"What it's about is sort of 'what your dream is,'" the 27-year-old Nagra added. "Not that one is better than the other, but whatever you conceive it to be, you should follow."

After four weeks in limited release, the independent film has earned only $2.6 million—but scored a remarkable $10,000 average last weekend at 117 locations. It expands into 100 more theaters this weekend.

"The $2.6 million doesn't sound like a lot of money to a lot of people . . . but it tells you there's a groundswell behind this movie," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of box-office tracker Exhibitor Relations Co. "They're doing exactly what they need to be doing. They have a great film on their hands, the buzz has been building, and they're rolling the film out into more and more theaters."

The $241 million success of last year's "My Big Fat Greek Wedding," a similar low-budget comedy with ethnic and family themes, may have made the general moviegoing public more open-minded about such populist art-house films, he added.

"Beckham" has been hyped heavily by US distributor Fox Searchlight at soccer coaching conventions and to local leagues. It also received endorsements from US soccer stars Mia Hamm and Brandi Chastain.

The American Youth Soccer Organization has about 450,000 players, and about 42 percent are girls—although the film's PG-13 rating leaves out some younger fans.

Title

One of the movie's biggest marketing challenges has been explaining the title, said Nancy Utley, Fox Searchlight's marketing president. One TV commercial compares Beckham to skateboarder Tony Hawk and tennis star Serena Williams with the phrases "Hang It Like Hawk" and "Smash It Like Serena."

Initially, Fox Searchlight wanted to change the title, but executives decided it could help generate curiosity. "We came up with a lot of bad generic titles and just decided to go for the quirkiness," Utley said. "We're the company that (distributed) 'The Full Monty' and no one knew what that was."

The film directed and co-written by Gurinder Chadha (whose first film was "Bhaji on the Beach") became the first film by a nonwhite Briton to reach No. 1 at the United Kingdom box office after its April 2002 release. It eventually became the top-grossing homegrown film with earnings equivalent to about $17 million. It has collected a worldwide total of about $50 million, according to Fox Searchlight.

"Beckham" co-stars Keira Knightley as Jules, who encourages Jess to join her team, but is facing the same kind of opposition from her parents about her passion for the male-dominated sport.

Love triangle

There's also a love triangle involving the two girls and their handsome young coach (Jonathan Rhys-Meyers) that makes them question whether love or friendship is more important.

The story also tackles homophobia (Jules' mother mistakenly fears that the two girls are lovers), sexism (the girls are mocked by bullying male soccer players) and racism (Jess' father was once banned from playing soccer with whites and turned his bitterness against the sport.)

"There's a lot of politics in it, and the brilliant thing about Gurinder is it's not like we're preaching. Nobody preaches. It's all done through comedy and it simply raises the issues," Knightley said. "It's simply about following your dreams, following your instincts and making yourself happy without hurting anybody else." *AP*

Ellen Ongkeko-Marfil and her 'Angels'

By Dino Manrique

ALAJAR: Acclaimed actress and director.

BUENCAMINO. Stage actor now busy in the movies.

LAST March 12, 2003, we saw a wonderful surprise of a movie, the digital film "Angels" produced by Star Cinema's now defunct Digital Film Division, then headed by scriptwriter Ricky Lee, who also wrote "Angels." "Angels" was directed, by Ellen Ongkeko-Marfil.

Blind masseurs

"Angels" is the story of the Gonzalo couple, blind masseurs or massage therapists (Rudy and Angie, portrayed by Nonie Buencamino and Gina Alajar, respectively), and their three children: 16-year-old and mentally-challenged Cherrylou (Wena Basco), 5-year-old Grace (Joan Tan) and 10-year-old Jonathan (Michael Angelo Caangay), from whose point of view the story is told.

After the screening, we talked to the director and found out that her romance with the movies began in college at the Manila International Film Festival, when she would watch films from morning till night. She then worked with the Philippine Educational Theater Association (Peta). In the movies, on and off, she worked for such cinematic luminaries as Ishmael Bernal, Mike de Leon, and Lino Brocka. She considers Bernal her mentor. On the sets of such films as "Himala," he loved to explain things.

TV directing

When Peta went into television with "PETAbisyon," Ongkeko-Marfil learned the ropes of TV directing. She also held various jobs in advertising, TV, video, and film, earning recognition and awards in the process.

Later, she decided to go mainstream because she wanted to reach more people. She worked for Star Cinema as assistant director to Chito Roño in the film "Eskapo." She also directed TV shows like "Maala-ala Mo Kaya." But what she really wanted to do was to direct feature films.

She approached producers with a script, a love story, which spanned the terms of Marcos and Erap. Three times in three years, the movie was cast, but something would go wrong at the last minute, and the project would fall through. Eventually, Ricky Lee, who then headed the Digital Film Division of Star Cinema, asked her if she had another story. She told Lee the story of the Gonzalo couple who became her friends after she hired the services of the wife Angie.

Storyline

It happened so fast, she says. She submitted a storyline in December, 2001 to Lee, and by February, 2002, she was already directing. She surmises that it must have been "divine intervention." It was a one-month calendar, consisting of 16 shooting days. Besides the grueling shoot, however, there were other difficulties.

For one, Jonathan, at the time of the shooting, was in a terrible stage in his life, having trouble in school and running away from home regularly. These dark episodes found their way into the movie, and Ongkeko-Marfil was anxious whenever Jonathan was gone, because she didn't want to end the story on a sad note.

The struggles also went beyond the shooting of the movie. At the Cinemanila Film Festival, the version that was shown, technically speaking, wasn't really what Ongkeko-Marfil wanted, mainly because of mistakes made during editing.

With the help of friend and fellow filmmaker Nonoy Dadivas, Ellen reedited the movie, and fixed the audio. Last March 12 at the UP Film Center, the film was shown again. Their hard work paid off.

Duty

Ongkeko-Marfil says she believes in the responsibility of the director, in his implicit duty to affect the lives of the viewers in a positive way. Coming from Peta, she favored the social-realism type of storytelling, but experience has taught her that it is better to approach filmmaking from the perspective of someone trying to understand a character in a story. She avoids portraying characters in black-and-white terms and tries to really understand their motivations.

And that is the secret of "Angels." There are no "good" and "bad" characters—only human beings. And because of such honesty, Ellen reveals that the blind community embraced the movie.

She repeats what they said: "*Ang ganda-ganda . . . hindi sobra, hindi kulang, hindi siya* hardsell." "I think they don't like being patronized," she says. And the reaction of the family? They loved it.

Ongkeko-Marfil would also like to think that the movie had a positive effect on the family itself. She relates that after the movie was shown at Cinemanila, Jonathan, who had watched the movie with his new teachers and classmates, had fewer tantrums and laughed more frequently, and eventually stopped running away.

Three-part Swedish documentary to mark Ingmar Bergman's 85th birthday celebration

STOCKHOLM—Swedish Television is making a three-part documentary about stage and screen legend Ingmar Bergman, including the first interviews given by the reclusive filmmaker on his island retreat since 1971, media reported.

Project leader

Project leader Marie Nyreroed told the newspaper Aftonbladet the idea for the documentary came about when Swedish Television decided to put something together to mark Bergman's 85th birthday on July 14.

"We have already begun filming, at the Royal Dramatic Theater among other things. And soon we will travel to Faaroe (on the Baltic Sea island of Gotland) to follow his life there," Nyreroed said.

"It's exciting. He hasn't let any journalists into his home since 1971," she added.

The documentary will be aired in three 50-minute segments on Swedish Television next year.

In connection with his birthday this summer, 14 of his films will be shown on television, while the full-length version of his 1982 masterpiece "Fanny and Alexander," which won two Academy Awards, will be shown at Christmas.

In seclusion

The last of the great postwar European filmmakers has lived in seclusion on Faaroe since the death of his wife of 25 years in 1995.

While he has repeatedly announced his retirement—after his wife's death he described life as "a comfortable hell" and vowed he would never film again—he has remained active with film and theatre projects in Sweden.

The man who traded 100 tin soldiers with his older brother to get his first movie camera has proved unable to stop creating.

He has spent the past year filming "Sarabande," returning after 30 years to Marianne and Johan, the couple portrayed by Liv Ullmann and Erland Josephson in his 1972 movie "Scenes From a Marriage." It has not yet been decided if "Sarabande" will have its premiere on Swedish television or at the Venice film festival in the autumn. *AFP*

Why Iranian films are admired worldwide

By Nestor U. Torre

THE FACT that an Iranian film, "Under the Moonlight," topped the recent international filmfest for peace in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, is no accident. Indeed, it would seem like Iranian cinema and the recent Malaysian festival showcasing movies that promote peace are made for each other.

Theme

As Iranian delegate Manuchehr Mahammidi observed, "The theme of Iranian cinema, which has been able to attract the attention of many in the world, is caring for human beings, with all their problems and the other things that occupy their minds. How the human being lives and what he chooses for his life is important.

"In many Iranian films, we can appreciate the pure occasions in life. The theme for one of Abbas Kiarostami's movies is the effort of a young boy to return the notebook of his classmate that he took home by mistake, regardless of the distance and other obstacles.

"BARAN" deals with the sad plight of Afghan refugees.

Blind boy

"Mr. Majidi's film, which was a candidate for the Oscar award, tells the story of a blind boy who can feel and touch the beauty of nature and people much better than those who can see."

The Iranian delegate admitted that people used to Hollywood-type movies "may not believe that it is possible to make good movies on these themes, using amateur actors. But this has been realized again and again by Iranian cinema. In other words, Iranian film workers have been able to produce a possibility out of a limitation.

Superficial

"Superficial movies in which sex and violence are used may attract viewers for sometime, bur their influence is impermanent and superficial. Therefore, the cinema worker should have one eye on reality and another eye on a better and achievable future.

"These two key elements make viewers believe the cinema and look at it respectfully. They in turn regard film workers as valuable people who are able to depict their audience's pains, joys and interests. Therefore, their movies are charged with artistic realism."

How did Iranian movies get to be like this? Some influential factors:

Products

- Iranian film workers refused to copy the products of Hollywood, as other countries have. "It is better to produce from an original theme rather than merely localizing a borrowed theme," the Iranian delegate observed.
- To attain that kind of originality, Iranian film workers had to get "a precise look at their surroundings. Thus, a huge source of themes and ideas was discovered that was specifically applicable to Iranian life.
- These themes also resonated well with viewers all over the world "because devotion, generosity, equality and non-discrimination are appreciated and respected everywhere."

Solutions

- Iranian filmmakers discovered that, to be successful, "they must respect their audience and not mock their ideals, beliefs and interests. In addition to depicting real problems, the filmmakers also tried to find solutions."
- Film workers in Iran have realized that "expensive technology and special effects are not factors that produce a good movie. Instead, a new, innovative idea is essential and effective. That's why even the 'primitive' films made by Charlie Chaplin are moving and effective to this day. What 'eternalized' Chaplin was his attention to human themes."

Family

- Finally, Iranian filmmakers produce movies not for a particular group, but for all of the members of a family. Thus, entire families can be seen lining up for movie tickets in Iran.

"This is not only a success from the economic point of view, but Iranian movies have also strengthened the Iranian family. For this reason, the Ministry of Culture provides financial support for worthy film projects.

"The art of cinema must be at the service of human dignity!"

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Robert De Niro boosts New York City filmmaking

By Christy Lemire

NEW YORK—Why have so many great films been shot in New York?

DE NIRO. The second Tribeca filmfest is screening some 200 movies.

Start

Because New York is the greatest city in the world, Robert De Niro said upon the start of the second annual Tribeca Film Festival.

"It's just got everything, you know? What else can I say? It's just got everything and it's got the energy," De Niro said at a news conference Tuesday.

Cinematic history

To celebrate the city's cinematic history, festival organizers announced the "Set in New York" program, in which plaques will be placed at spots where well-known films were shot.

"It's the first official designation of famous New York City film sites, and a way to make the Tribeca Film Festival something that will last all year long," said John Hayes, executive vice president of American Express, the festival's founding sponsor.

Backdrop

"Since New York City is the backdrop for so many great movies throughout the history of film, it's only fitting to have a permanent program to recognize the importance of New York City film locations."

The first location will be Katz's Deli, where Meg Ryan famously faked an orgasm as perky Sally Albright during "When Harry Met Sally . . ."

Online festival poll

The 1989 comedy, which was voted the most romantic New York film in an online festival poll, will screen in a makeshift 1950s drive-in setting along the Hudson River.

Among the other films shot in New York that are screening at the festival are Spike Lee's "Do the Right Thing" and "She's Gotta Have It," the new features "Ash Tuesday" and "Duke's House" and the documentaries "Ashtanga, NY" and "Cinemania."

Partner

De Niro and his partner in the Tribeca Films production company, Jane Rosenthal, organized the festival last year to help lower Manhattan rebound economically from the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

The event is bigger and longer this year, with about 200 features, shorts and documentaries screening over nine days. *AP*

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THALIA. About to release her first album in English.

People en Español picks '25 Most Beautiful' Latinos

NEW YORK—Mexican singer Thalia, aiming to become a crossover hit this summer with her first English language album, tops the list of "25 Most Beautiful" people selected by People en Español and released on Tuesday.

Oscar nominees Salma Hayek and Andy Garcia follow close behind the 31-year-old Thalia in the magazine edition that hits newsstands on Monday, May 12.

True value

"Our '25 Most Beautiful' represent the true value and spirit of being Hispanic," said Angelo Figueroa, who was the magazine's managing editor until May 1 and helped compile the list.

The list includes New York Yankees' Bernie Williams, magician David Blaine, Miss USA Susie Castillo, actors Adam Rodriguez, Cesar Evora, Diego Luna, Gabriel Soto, Reynaldo and Yancy Arias, actresses Ana Claudia Talancon, Eva Longoria and Gina Torres, singers Adolfo Angel, Jennifer Pena, Juanes, Mille Cortejer, Pablo Montero and Patricia Manterola and television personalities Carmen Dominicci, Charytin and Marian de la Fuente.

People en Español, published by Time Inc.., a division of AOL Time Warner, was launched in 1998. *Reuters*

'Friends' star Matt LeBlanc marries in Hawaii

LOS ANGELES—"Friends" star Matt LeBlanc has said "How you doin'?" to marriage.

Bluff

The 35-year-old actor, whose dimwitted character on the popular NBC sitcom purrs that catch phrase to woo women, married fiancee Melissa McKnight on the Hawaiian island of Kauai on Saturday.

The ceremony took place at night on a bluff overlooking Anini beach, LeBlanc's Los Angeles-based publicist, Joe Libonati, said.

LeBlanc's "Friends" co-stars Jennifer Aniston, Lisa Kudrow and Courteney Cox attended the event, but Matthew Perry was in London and David Schwimmer was in Chicago, Libonati said.

The couple had been engaged since 1998. It was LeBlanc's first marriage and the second for McKnight, who has two children from that previous relationship. *AP*

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SATURDAY *Special*

'X2' speeds to $155M at worldwide box office

By Dean Goodman

HALLE Berry (right) portrays "Storm" along with co-star Famke Janssen, who plays Jean Grey.
REUTERS

HUGH [illegible] Gifted Youngsters comes under attack.
REUTERS

LOS ANGELES—Hollywood's lucrative summer box office season got off to an early start over the previous weekend as the comic book adventure film "X2: X-Men United" stormed cinemas worldwide in the biggest launch in movie history.

Studio estimates

According to studio estimates issued on Sunday, the massively hyped sequel sold $85.9 million worth of tickets in its first three days of release across the United States and Canada. It also earned $69.3 million from 93 countries, taking its total to $155.2 million—more than half of what the first movie, 2000's "X-Men," made in its entire run.

"X-Men" opened with $54.5 million in North America and went on to earn $157.3 million domestically and $294 million worldwide.

The new film, based on the popular Marvel comic books about a pack of ostracized mutant savants, ranks No. 4 on the list of North American openings. "Spider-Man," also based on a Marvel comic, holds the record with $115 million, followed by "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" with $90.3 million and Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets" with $88.4 million.

Unit

"X2" was released by Twentieth Century Fox, a unit of News Corp.'s Fox Entertainment Group Inc. The studio partnered on the film with Marvel Studios, a unit of Marvel Enterprises Inc.

Fox's three-day estimate was actually lower than that of other studios, some of which placed the opening above $90 million.

The film, which cost about $110 million to make, features an ensemble cast including Hugh Jackman ("Wolverine"), Halle Berry ("Storm") and Sir Ian McKellen ("Magneto"). Their mutant characters try to defend a human world that rejects them.

"We all are mutants," said Marvel Studios CEO Avi Arad, one of the film's producers. "And in every place and every situation, there's someone who thinks they're better than us." Exit polls showed that a surprisingly high 44 percent of the audience for "X2" was female, Fox distribution president Bruce Snyder said. Generally glowing reviews also brought in older audiences, with 52 percent aged over 25, he added.

In North America, the film played in a record 3,741 theaters, beating the old mark of 3,682 for last year's "Harry Potter" sequel.

Big guns

Summer traditionally begins in Hollywood over the Memorial Day holiday weekend (May 23-26), but in recent years the studios have started releasing their big guns earlier to maximize returns in a crowded marketplace.

For Marvel, "X2" marks the company's sixth consecutive No. 1 release, after "X-Men," the two "Blade" movies, "Spider-Man" and the recently released "Daredevil." The run is likely to extend to seven with the June 20 release of "The Hulk," starring Australian actor Eric Bana as the moody green giant.

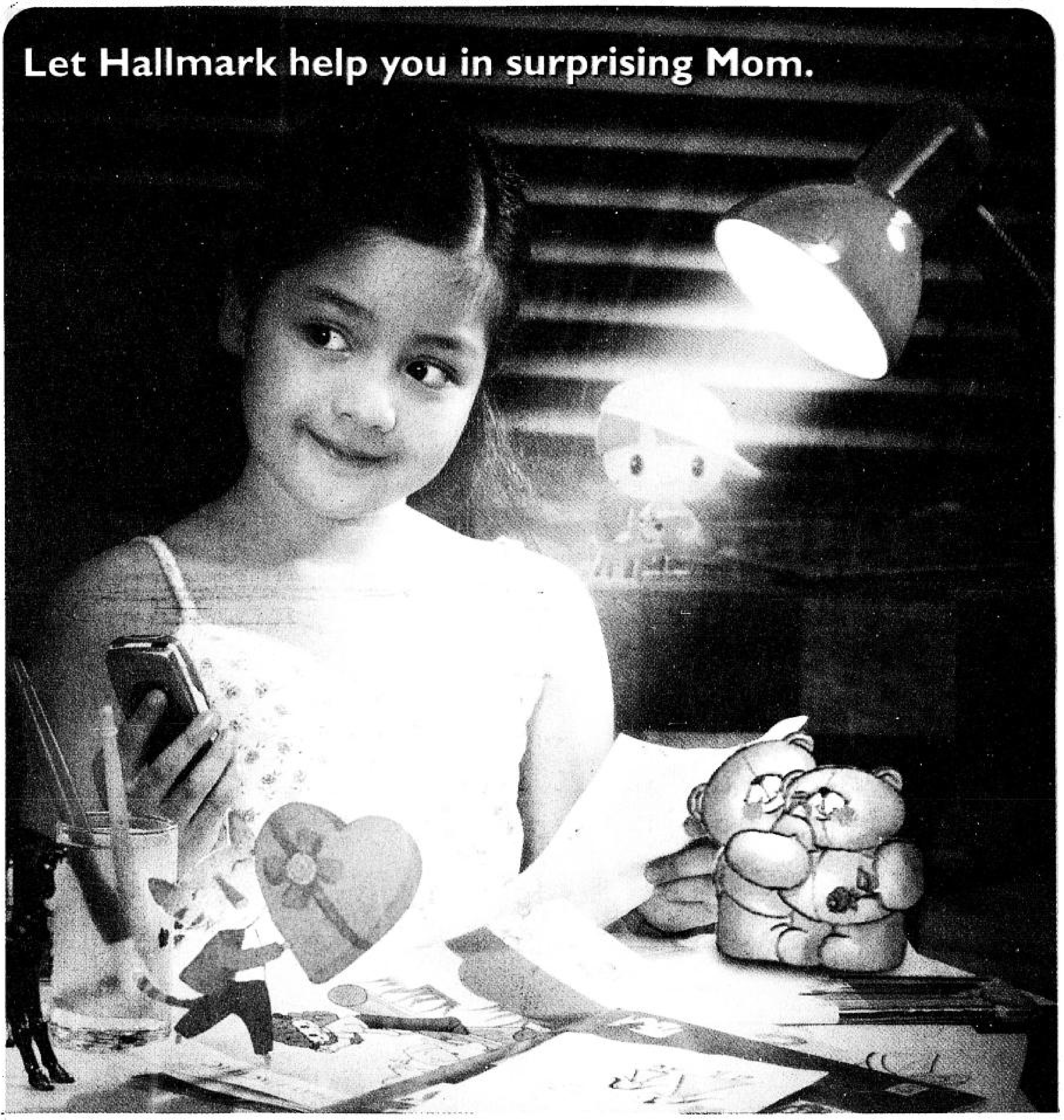
The top 10 contained one other new release, "The Lizzie McGuire Movie," which opened at No. 2 with $17 million. The $25 million Walt Disney Pictures release stars Hilary Duff as a plucky heroine who gets involved in assorted high-jinks on a class trip to Italy.

Duff also plays the title character in the hit Disney Channel cable TV series on which it is based. Predictably, the film's audience was young girls, said Chuck Viane, president of domestic distribution at Walt Disney Co.

One film entered the top 10 for the first time in its eighth week of release. "Bend It Like Beckham," a British romantic comedy about a girl who seeks to play soccer despite her immigrant parents' misgivings, tied at No. 9 with "Bulletproof Monk." Both reported about $1.5 million. Playing in just 484 theaters, "Beckham" has scored $11 million to date.

It was released by Fox Searchlight, Fox's art-house arm. *Reuters*

REBECCA Romijn-Stamos (right) reprises her "X-Men" role as "Mystique." She is shown here with Ian McKellen as Magneto.
REUTERS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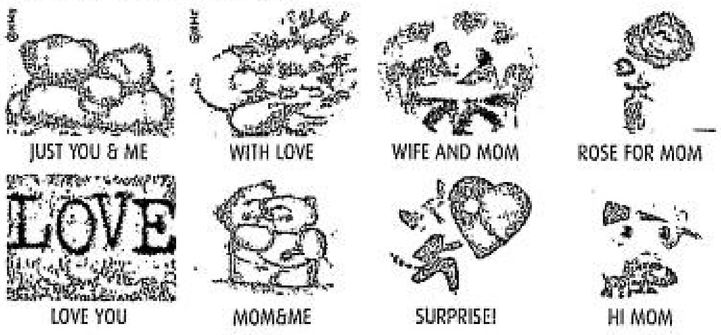

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Miriam Quiambao finally makes it to the movies

By Edmund L. Sicam

AFTER Miriam Quiambao won as first runner-up in the 1999 Miss Universe beauty pageant, she received many offers to act in the movies, most of them taking advantage of her good looks and shapely figure. Miriam turned down all the offers, including one reportedly from FPJ, because she felt she was not yet ready for the big screen.

TV host

Instead, Miriam got her feet wet in the world of TV hosting. Middle of last year, she felt she was ready for the movies and asked her manager, Wyngard Tracy, to scout around for a suitable project. Soon enough, she was told that the producers of "Lapu Lapu" wanted her to play the hero's wife.

Miriam thought she already had the part, so she felt really bad when she learned that sexy star Joyce Jimenez had been cast in the role at the last minute.

"I really cried over that incident," says Miriam. "But when God closes a door, He opens a window—a chance to act with Sharon Cuneta and Richard Gomez in a movie directed by Joel Lamangan."

Prestige movie

With her first movie, "Walang Kapalit," Miriam gets to star in a prestige movie. Although she plays only a supporting role as Richard's girlfriend who ends up getting dumped in the end, Miriam feels it is a fitting way to start her movie career.

Also in the movie is Paolo Bediones, Miriam's TV partner in "Extra, Extra." As expected, someone asked her at the presscon whether she and Paolo were an item.

So sorry, Paolo is involved with someone who is finishing her studies in Canada. And Miriam has eyes only for a foreigner who works in Hong Kong. She does admit that she and Paolo have a special relationship that goes beyond friendship. It was very evident during the presscon. They kept embracing each other and having a private conversation.

Heavy drama

Miriam hopes that she can do another movie this year. In fact, she already has some pending offers. Producers were probably impressed by her performance in GMA's "Magpakailanman," where she played beauty queen-activist Nelia Sancho.

After TV hosting, doing drama and tackling comedy in sitcoms, Miriam says she would next like to do action movies in the style of "Charlie's Angels." That's a great idea since there is no actress now who has made a name as an action star.

Any takers?

QUIAMBAO. Wants to do an action movie next.

Expect Tony nominations battle among revivals, not newer shows

By Michael Kuchwara

NEW YORK—"Gypsy" and "Nine." And what about "La Boheme"?

And then there's Peter Nichols' "A Day in the Death of Joe Egg" and Eugene O'Neill's monumental family drama, "Long Day's Journey Into Night," not to mention the Greek tragedy "Medea."

Spirited competition

When the 2003 Tony Award nominations are announced May 12, expect the biggest battles to be among the old, not the new. Revivals, in both the musical and play categories, could provide most of the spirited competition for Broadway's highest honor.

The season has been a strange one for Broadway's box office, with an unusually cold winter, the four-day musicians strike, the US-led war in Iraq and the general economic malaise contributing to a slippage in business.

Still, there has been one smash musical hit—"Hairspray"—and several productions that have done well because of their stars: "Our Town," Paul Newman; "Salome," Al Pacino; and "Life (x) 3," Helen Hunt and John Turturro.

Cult film comedy

"Hairspray," based on the cult John Waters film comedy about a chubby high school girl, most likely will come out on top with nominations.

Nominees will be announced at Sardi's, the theater-district restaurant, with John Lithgow and Melanie Griffith doing the honors. Lithgow was a Tony winner last year for "Sweet Smell of Success," while Griffith goes into the cast of "Chicago" in July to play Roxie Hart. And she has another reason for hanging around Broadway. Her husband, Antonio Banderas, currently stars in a revival of "Nine," the 1982 Tony winner for best musical.

"Nine," the saga of a woman-obsessed film director, is expected to be one of the top contenders and is a model of what a good revival should be—a celebration of what was on stage in the past but reimagined for the present. The Maury Yeston-Arthur Kopit musical is a shoo-in for a musical-revival nomination along with "Gypsy" and "La Boheme," Baz Luhrmann's youthful version of the Puccini opera.

To fill out the category, the fourth slot will most likely be "Man of La Mancha," starring Brian Stokes Mitchell.

Banderas should get a nomination in the actor-musical category. His main competition will be Harvey Fierstein, playing the lovely Edna Turnblad in "Hairspray." Marissa Jaret Winokur, who plays Fierstein's daughter in the show, will nab an actress-musical nomination. So will Bernadette Peters, pulling the comeback of the year as Rose, the ultimate stage mother in "Gypsy."

Previews

Initial reports, when "Gypsy" was in previews, were not good for Peters or the musical, regarded by many in theater as the best ever written, with a book by Arthur Laurents, music by Jule Styne and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. But by the time it opened May 1, both had triumphed.

Nominations mean national television exposure on the Tony telecast, June 8, and a shot at more ticket sales. Also, Tony nominators tend to favor shows that are still running.

That won't be a problem for such hits as "Hairspray" and "Movin' Out"—Twyla Tharp's stage celebration of Billy Joel songs—which most likely will compete in the musical category along with the charming children's show, "A Year With Frog and Toad."

A fourth nominee could be either "Urban Cowboy" or "The Look of Love: The Songs of Burt Bacharach and Hal David," both panned by critics but still surviving.

Strong candidates

The play-revival category has several strong candidates. Likely nominees are "Joe Egg" and "Long Day's Journey," while several shows that already have closed, especially "Medea," "Dinner at Eight" and "Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune," could be in contention, too.

"Take Me Out," Richard Greenberg's play about a gay baseball player, didn't win the Pulitzer Prize this year—the honor went to Nilo Cruz for "Anna in the Tropics"—but it appears to be the leading contender for a best-play nomination.

Other likely candidates could be Matthew Barber's comedy "Enchanted April," Yasmina Reza's "Life (x) 3" and the already closed "Vincent in Brixton," about Vincent van Gogh. Reza is the author of the Tony-winning comedy "Art." *AP*

HELEN Hunt topbills Yasmin Reza's new play, "Life (x) 3."

ANTONIO Banderas could get an acting nomination for his performance in "Nine."

Maricar de Mesa has learned her lessons well

By Edmund I. Sicam

MARICAR de Mesa stars in "Bayaran" with Jay Manalo, who plays a deaf-mute, and unknown to her character, is also a gun-for-hire. Maricar is cast as a GRO.

Tame

Unlike her daring scenes in previous outings, her sequences in this movie are quite tame.

Of course, she and Jay have the requisite love scenes but Maricar says they are very tender. "*Dito, si* Jay, in love *sa akin. Kahit* prosti *ako, hindi pumasok sa eksena iyung pagka*-prostitute *ko.* Gently passionate *ang aming mga* love scenes," she explains.

The movie chose to emphasize not her being a prostitute, but *why* she became one.

Maricar hopes that this is a sign of things to come — she wants to move on to roles that will showcase her acting talent without her having to disrobe.

Jay's role is a new challenge for him because, throughout the movie, he doesn't say a word. Maricar shares how it was for both of them: "*Si Jay nahirapan, lalo yung* confrontation scene *kung saan nagalit ako sa kanya, kasi nalaman ko na* killer *siya. Si Jay talaga, yung emotion niya, hugot na hugot!*"

Sign language

They had a coach on the set who trained them to converse in sign language, but doing their scenes together was still difficult.

I asked Maricar if she would entertain a suitor who was a deafmute. "I'd rather not," she replied. "*Mas masarap ata yung naririnig mo yung boses niya, di ba?*"

In the movie, Maricar's character accepts Jay even after she discovers he is a hitman because she sees that, deep inside, Jay is actually a good guy. But it's different in real life, she says. "Still, *sa* story, *binigyan ng* justification *na yung mga pinapapatay niyang mga tao ay masasama.* But, they're still human. *Wala tayong karapatan mag*-judge."

Experiences

She says the greatest lesson she has learned from all her experiences in the business is her being able to socialize with different kinds of people.

"Yung alam mong tumingin sa maliliit. Na-experience *ko iyon, e. Nag*-start *ako na di ako pinapansin, kasi* extra lang *ako. Kaya ngayon, pag may* beginner, *una ko siya binabati kasi* I know how it feels!"

MANALO AND DE MESA. "Gently passionate" love scenes.

Thoughts provoked by a tiny virus

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

A COUNTRY may be SARS-free but the world can never be disease-free.

Reminder

The miseries in this world are but a reminder that this planet is not our real home.

* * *

A tiny virus can wreak havoc on society. It goes to show we are not the controllers and dominators of material nature. We are but insignificant living entities in this expansive cosmic manifestation.

* * *

Proud scientists declare their discoveries and achievements as awesome and boast of their goal to win over nature. They will sooner or later be humbled by forces beyond their control and realize the limitations of their intelligence and capabilities. A scientist who does not acknowledge the power of Mother Nature and Father God is but a laughing hyena who makes noises in the wild.

* * *

SARS means "Systematic Arrangement of Repeated Suffering." We are not really afraid of a tiny virus or a disease but we are deeply afraid of death and suffering. But we desire to stay in a world where there is systematic arrangement for continuous and repeated suffering—birth, diseases, old age and death. The solution to SARS is not just a vaccine but a true attempt to get out of this miserable material condition.

Healing process

The deeper concerns are not what we are suffering from but how we can totally be free from suffering. A person who focuses on the ugliness of his wound cannot spend his energy and mind on the healing process.

* * *

Man thinks he has improved life by building hospitals without windows and natural air, but he has in fact built a trap and breeding ground for the germs that he wants to avoid. He uses machines to blow cool ventilated air and spreads the germs along with them.

* * *

People need to learn that happiness lies not in shopping or going to malls. Happiness is within and when we are able to discover that great joy, we will also be much more peaceful and content.

Cleanliness

We need to practice cleanliness and hygiene, not because of SARS, but because it is part of a godly and pious lifestyle. Cleanliness is based on respect and appreciation for the body that the Supreme Being has given us.

It is also respect for Mother Nature—the environment that we have been given to care for. We should be clean, not because of selfishness and fear, but because of love and concern for our Supreme Father, Mother Nature, and others.

* * *

Quarantine laws are required for citizens who don't care to control their activities for the wellbeing of others. Threats of punishment are needed for those who just want to do what they want without thinking about other people's welfare. Force is useful in dealing with the rebellious and selfish.

Email lotuspond108@hotmail.com

Focus on Brunei Darussalam movies in 'The Films of Asean'

By Noelani Torre

IT might be hard for Filipinos, steeped as we are in a film culture more than a century old, to visualize feature film-less Brunei Darussalam. In the collection of essays, "The films of Asean," the entry on Brunei's film culture is the shortest of the lot. As editor Jose F. Lacaba himself opined, this affluent country "has no film industry to speak of."

Illuminating data

Nevertheless, one can gain a great deal of illuminating data about the whys and wherefores of this cultural and media lack in the essay written by Haji Yacob Bin Dato Paduka Haji Sunny (now that's a mouthful!), head of Entertainment, Culture and Educational TV in the Program Division of Radio Television Brunei.

Also, its brevity in no way detracts from the interest it raises, and despite or because of its depressing facts and the issues it *doesn't* raise, it provokes a lot of interest, indeed.

However, we must note that the information in the essay—and in all the other essays in this book—may no longer be completely accurate. Lacaba explains this in his introduction:

Reasons

"For various reasons," he said, "this book failed to come out on schedule. In some ways therefore, it has become somewhat outdated—outpaced not only by relentless changes in the social, political and economic landscape (including financial crises and governmental upheavals, events that inevitable impact on films and filmmaking), but also by new technological and artistic developments in the field of cinema."

Still, this collection of essays is important "as a historical record, as a survey of recent trends," and "as an introduction to a section of world cinema that has not been adequately explored."

Brunei's earliest films, dating from 1958, were mostly documentary types. As a matter of fact, at the time of Haji Yacob's writing, the country could boast of having produced only one feature film, "Gema Dari Menara" (Voice from the Minaret), which was created through the efforts of the government's Religious Affairs Department in 1968. As to be expected, its objective was "dakwah (Islamic propagation)." Even though it was Brunei-funded, the director, crew, and a number of cast members were Malaysian.

Are Bruneians simply not interested in filmmaking? Not because they can't do it. The author asserts, "There is no dearth of local talent," and cites two international awards won by Television Brunei documentaries—back in the early '80s.

Question

Thus, the question remains. why are Bruneians today not involving themselves in this century's quintessential medium for mass communication? Perhaps the answer lies in the fact that their government asserts a strong regulatory hold on all forms of media.

Wary of film's widespread ability to influence, the government of Brunei has a Board of Censorship that screens all films and "is tasked to be on the lookout for any scenes that may prove to be too violent or explicitly sexual, or scenes that violate the culture of the country." Still, it is acknowledged that film can also "play an important role in helping establish a national identity."

Need for theater without theaters affirmed

By Nestor U. Torre

A RECENT arts symposium recently tried to figure out why Philippine theater hasn't come into its own, after so many decades of trying. We were asked to put in our 20 centavos' worth to help shed light on the problem, and these were some of our inputs:

Regular activity

We believe that, for artists, arts should be a regular rather than occasional activity, and that art products should be appreciated by the population as a whole, rather than by elite or "captive" audiences.

By these yardsticks, Philippine theater has failed to make the impact it should. Thus, the solutions we offer should focus on improving the situation so that those two general objectives are achieved.

A major factor is the lack of genuine professionalism in the field. Theater people frequently say that "legitimate" stage productions are professional, and mass-audience, commercial TV-film productions aren't. Fact is, however, that quite a number of theater people don't really have sufficient training, and their "racket" (doing shows for the money) mentality prompts them to come up with generally mediocre productions.

Expensive

Aside from lack of professional talents, finances are also a big problem. It's expensive to rent theaters, mount a production and market a show. The solution is "theater without theaters." Instead of presenting plays in regular venues, we should mount shows in any available space: Town plazas, school gyms, offices, churches, homes— etc.!

This would help solve local theater's financial problems, *and* bring it closer to the people, thus effectively expanding its reach. This would go a long way in meeting one of our main objectives, to make theater much more popular than it is.

Limited run

Related to the financial woes of theater is the limited run that most productions have. Even successful shows are performed only 20 times or so, because venues aren't available, amusement taxes are high, and key talents leave a production to do something else.

This is a sadly inefficient way of doing things, because theater should be a constant activity, rather than something that's done only once in a while. Thus, hit shows' potential for a long run should be maximized, by using a greater variety of venues, and lowering ticket prices so that not just the A-B crowd but also the C-D-E economic sectors can afford to see a show.

Bigger audience

Lower ticket prices for a hit show would result in a bigger audience, more performances, more time for good word-of-mouth publicity to take effect, etc. If hit shows can be performed for years on end in other countries, why can't the same thing happen here?

It's also important that we nurture the good talents we have, so they can regard theater as their profession, rather than an avocation or sideline. For this to happen, they have to be paid better.

That can happen without raising production costs (and ticket prices) by allocating a bigger share of the show's budget to actors and production people, and less to sets and technical requirements.

Reality

We should accept the reality that we are a relatively poor country with insufficient financing for arts activities, so our focus at this stage (until theater's financial prospects improve) should be on *people*, rather than production and technical requirements.

Some of these views may seem radical, but innovative thinking and solutions are what are needed to help make theater finally come into its own in this country.

NATIONAL Artist Freddie Guerrero's Mobile Theater group performed plays in all sorts of venues in different parts of the country.

Egypt produces comedy about Iraq's spin doctor

CAIRO—A comedy short has been produced in Egypt about Saddam Hussein's top spin doctor Mohammed Said al-Sahhaf, who became a global celebrity for his persistent refusal to admit US troops were in Baghdad.

Abul Qassem Omar, the Libyan director of a 12-minute short film titled "I Am Not Sahhaf." AFP

Information minister

The 12-minute film, titled "I Am Not Sahhaf," tells the story of a man of the street who admired the former Iraqi information minister so much that he ends up thinking he is Sahhaf.

It took a week to produce the film, which will be broadcast on Arab television channels soon and will appear in cinemas in the summer, its producer Abu al-Qassem Omar Rageh, a Libyan, told AFP.

Haunted

Egyptian actor Antar Hilal plays a man who is so haunted by the press conferences Sahhaf gave daily during the three-week US-British war that he starts to dream about him and eventually thinks he is Sahhaf.

People around him do not take him seriously at first, but when the war reaches the end, his family tries to hand him over to the US authorities in the hope of getting award money. AFP

So much to see at Sidcor

NINA, the youngest in our family, is one of the most thoughtful persons I know. She remembers everyone's birthday, from drivers to bank tellers, and will always have something for them.

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

Bargain hunters

She also is one of the best of bargain hunters, from Virra Mall all the way to Divisoria. Like my cousin Pat P, she is the most experienced at making "*tawad.*" I kid them both that they can go around Divisoria with their eyes closed. Whenever the *tinderas* see Nina coming, they hide!

Many of my discoveries have been shared by Nina. Recently, she was excited about this place that she and her husband Louie, also a food tripper like us, have been going to every Sunday.

Sidcor is located between P. Tuazon and Santolan ave. in Quezon City. This is where the Peking Garden restaurant used to be (coming from Makati, it's on your right side).

Sidcor opens early Sunday morning, and offers everything from *tsinelas* to fresh meats, *suman* and barbecue.

Special treat

A special treat is Barbecuehan ni Ineng, one of the best in Manila. The place is owned by Michelle Santiago. *Sarap!*

Another place sells the popular Batangas dish, *Sinigang na tulingan*. Plus delicious fried peanuts with garlic and chili, and fried *lumpiang ubod* with *suka* and *bawang*.

Once, I bumped into Alex and Carol Quizon, who were buying tiny green mangoes or *supsupin*. Nice to see fellow foodies in a place like this.

We were in our element! At the back was Ernie Baron and a crowd of listeners.

After the tour, Nina had an extra T-shirt and a cold drink for me. That's how well she plans her trips. If you're looking for something new to do, check Sidcor out. It's different and exciting.

Happy eating!

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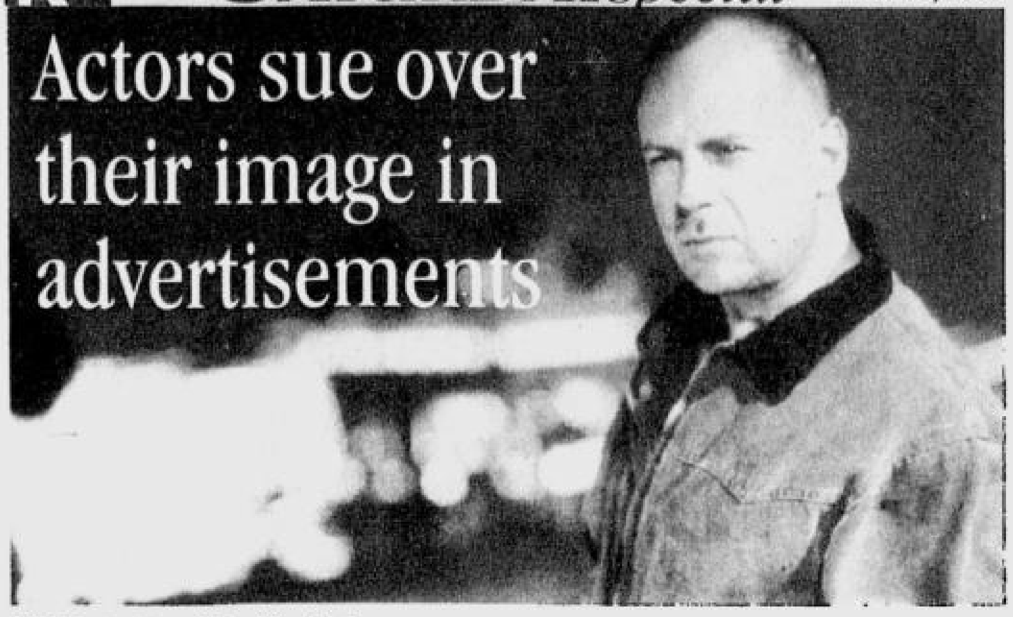
Actors sue over their image in advertisements



WILLIS. Seeking $10 million in damages.

LOS ANGELES—Arnold Schwarzenegger, Bruce Willis and Denzel Washington are suing Fry's Electronics for allegedly using their images in newspaper advertisements without permission.

Lawsuit

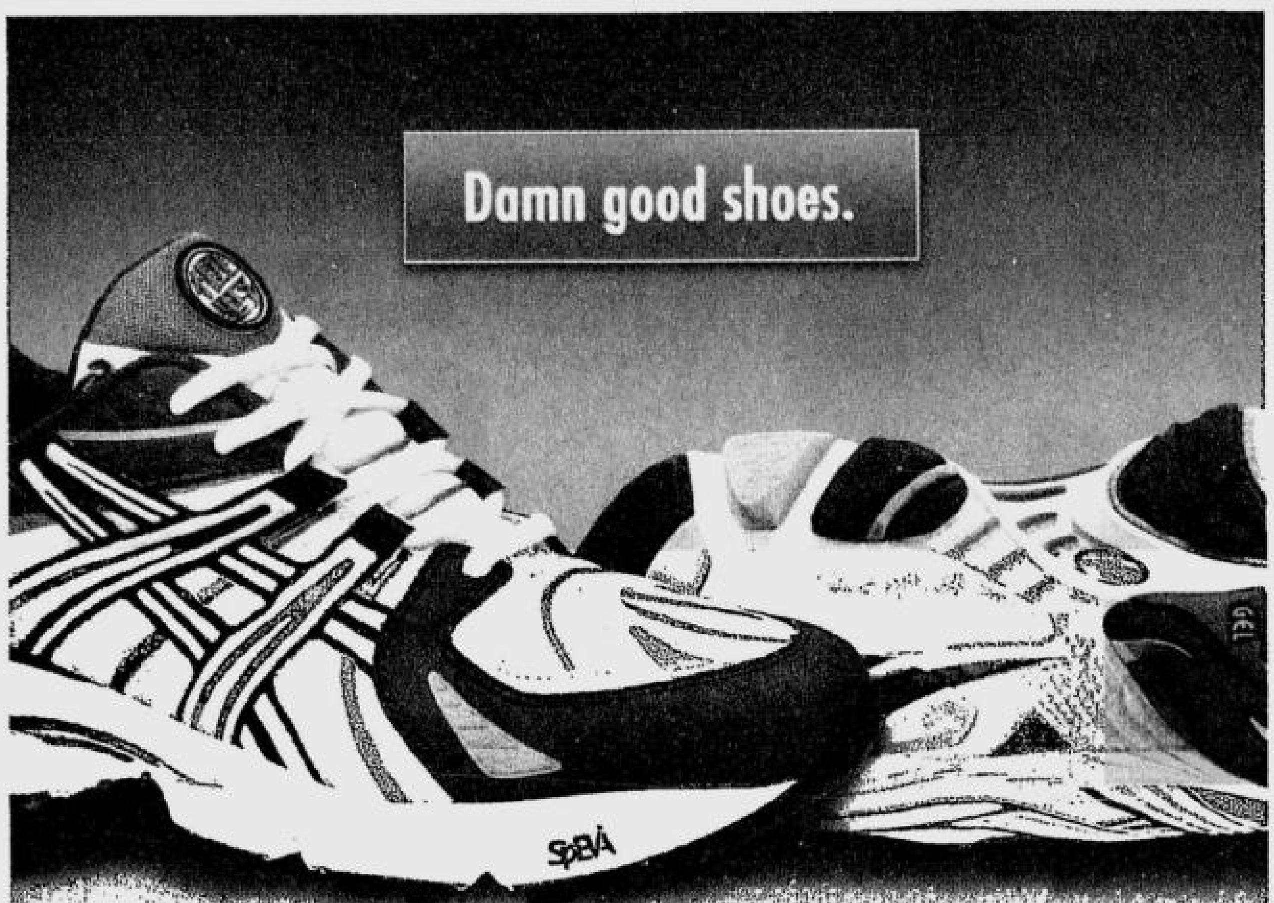
Each actor seeks $10 million in damages. The lawsuit says the ads could diminish their "hard-earned and well-deserved reputations as major motion picture stars and risks the potential for overexposure."

The lawsuit, filed Monday in Los Angeles Superior Court, claims the photos ran in the Los Angeles Times and other major newspapers.

Headquarters

Representatives of Fry's, which has its headquarters in San Jose, California, and stores in Texas, Arizona and Oregon, did not immediately return calls for comment.

Similar lawsuits involving unauthorized uses of celebrities in advertising were filed recently against cosmetics chain Sephora USA by couple Matthew Broderick and Sarah Jessica Parker and the divorced actors Nicole Kidman and Tom Cruise. *AP*



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SATURDAY Special

Behind the success of Pops, Camille and Bernadette are their mothers

By Jocelyn Valle

FERNANDEZ, PRATS AND SEMBRANO. Blessed with moms who are helpful and caring, but don't run their lives.

BEHIND every man's success, they say, is a woman. But it is also true that behind every woman's success is another woman. Let's find out how from Pops Fernandez, Camille Prats, Bernadette Sembrano and their mothers:

Career

Pops Fernandez's entertainment career was successfully launched in 1982 when her first single, "Dito," and its quick follow-up, "Just Say You Love Me," topped the charts. Her second hit song was even made into a movie, with Pops and Rowell Santiago in the lead.

But the acting field proved to be too crowded. There were the Regal Babies and, at Viva, Sharon Cuneta. There was, however, one unclaimed territory for young singing stars: the concert scene.

It was then that Pops' mom and manager Dulce Lukban first thought of producing a concert for her precious daughter. "I got the idea from my friends who were encouraging me to produce a show for Pops," recalls the former actress. "But I didn't know anything about producing. Still, with their help , I was able to do it."

LUKBAN. Her daughter Pops' concert producer.

That was how Pops' smashing 1983 debut on the concert stage came about. To prove that "Folks Meet Pops" was no fluke, Lukban immediately followed it up with "Sweat It Out" and then "Heading for the Stars."

After that, Pops was conferred the title Concert Queen. And her mom remains a major player in her shows (Lukban's DSL Productions line-produced Pops' birthday gig last year for ABS-CBN).

Dulce admits that she still gets tense before and during Pops' performances, but now, it's not as nerve-wracking as their early ventures.

As line producer, Dulce concentrates on providing the requirements of the production, leaving the artistic side to the director and Pops. Mother and daughter discuss production matters in a professional way. "We talk about the pros and cons," shares Pops, who feels blessed to have her mother around. "And she respects my decision."

Big part

Camille Prats' mom Alma isn't her manager, but she's nonetheless a big part of Camille's career. Whenever she can, she makes it a point to accompany her darling daughter to work.

Mommy Alma avers that their family life hasn't changed much since Camille and her brother John joined the biz. "*Hindi lang kami nakakasama sa mga* family outings," she sighs. "*Mabait pa rin silang mga bata.*"

The proud mom shares that Camille and John care a lot for their younger siblings. "*Si* Camille *ang nagtu*-tutor *sa mga kapatid niya*," Ms Prats smiles. "*Chini*-check *niya ang mga* assignments *nila*."

She assures us that the two popular young stars won't suffer the same sad fate of some of their predecessors. Camille and John have invested some of their money in cars and in a property in Cainta, Rizal. They also value education. John, in fact, has volunteered to pay for his own tuition at Thames.

Mommy Alma advises her fellow celebrity parents not to make their

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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Film fantasy takes different forms in movies with young lead players

By Nestor U. Torre

AFTER Rowan Atkinson in "Johnny English," it's young star Frankie Muniz's turn to tweak the secret agent syndrome by way of the fantasy teen spy comedy, "Agent Cody Banks."

KEANU Reeves in "Matrix Reloaded."

HILLARY Duff and Frankie Muniz in "Agent Cody Banks."

Breezy spoof

In the breezy spoof, Cody Banks looks like the typical teenager—he hates math, loves skateboarding, is a klutz around girls, and has a smothering mom who drives him crazy.

What even his family doesn't know, however, is that Cody has a secret life—as an elite undercover intelligence agent! Specially trained at a top-secret facility, Cody is equipped with all of the acute physical and mental skills needed by a spy to fulfill the most difficult mission—and still come out alive.

In addition, he's armed with the latest arsenal of totally cool gadgets that would make even James Bond salivate. —Well, this is a teen spy fantasy, after all.

First assignment

Cody's first assignment requires him to spy on a scientist who is developing a fleet of deadly Nanobots that are powerful enough to destroy planet Earth.

With the young agent's extensive training and high-tech gadgets, the mission looks easy as pie—until he discovers that, to get the scientist to trust and like him and thus lower his guard, he has to befriend his tall and lovely daughter.

This poses a huge problem, because Cody has been trained in everything involving spying—but remains a klutz when it comes to girls! The CIA spent $10 million training him, but didn't teach him how to talk to beautiful young women.

Roller-coaster ride

Cody's entire mission is put in peril by this limitation on his part, so the film's plot progression becomes a roller-coaster ride of occasional wins and sudden reversals.

Meanwhile, "X-2," the new "X-Men" sequel, is being enjoyed by sci-fi fans not so much for its story as for its visual effects, new mutant characters, and deeper exploration of the mutant "mythology."

It continues to deal with the themes of tolerance and fear of the unknown. It's still about misfits, prejudice, about being an outsider and not being understood—but it's now also about unity, as two generations of mutants join forces against their foes.

Movie series' appeal

The introduction of a younger generation of mutants further expands the movie series' appeal to strongly include adolescents and teenagers.

Also captivating sci-fi buffs is the long trailer of "Matrix Reloaded," which is now being shown during intermission at "X-2" screenings. The "Matrix" sequel begins where the first film left off.

The machines make a terrifying discovery: They've learned the location of Zion, the last human city, which is hidden deep near the Earth's core—and the humans have only 72 hours until thousands of Sentinels (squid-like probes) tunnel down to obliterate it.

Their only hope is to track down a mysterious figure known as The Keymaker, who is being guarded by villains known as The Twins, unnaturally white assassins who can vanish and reappear like ghosts.

SWITCHING CHANNELS

Ayen Munji to perform at Mandarin's Captain's Bar

By Edmund L. Sicam

AYEN Munji can't seem to get away from her regal identity as a former Brunei princess. Now that she's revived her musical career, she feels it will be hard to target the mass audience, who regard her as a *prinsesa*. So she has concentrated on doing concerts at small venues where the so-called A-B audience congregates.

MUNJI. Intimate concert.

Ayen is set to another intimate concert at The Captain's Bar of the Mandarin Oriental on May 17. Guesting in her one-night show are Janno Gibbs and Agot Isidro, with Danny Marshall of Powerdance and Cecile Martinez and Ayi of Whiplash. Musical direction is by Willy Munji. Proceeds from the show will benefit the Victory Leadership Institute.

Ayen reveals that there will be no particular musical theme for the show. She will be doing standards and popular ballads —"Am I the Same Girl,' "This is My Life," "Game of Love," Come Together" and "Meadowlark."

The perfectionist that she is, Ayen will be adding special lighting and using a seven-man band instead of the usual five. She will doing some dance numbers choreographed by Andy Alviz.

Ayen says she will do her best to please her discriminating audience. The trouper that she is, she states that although positive feedback from the audience energizes her, she realizes it is the performer's obligation to give her best performance even if the audience is not a receptive.

Call 638-7776.

Not just for tech-ies

If you are a cable subscriber who has already seen all the movies on HBO and Cinemax and would like to watch other viewing fare, you might try switching to Tech TV. The channel offers many interesting features on the use of technology in different fields of endeavor—business, construction, computers and even show business.

Computer geeks can identify with the host of "Call for Help," who answers questions about problems faced by computer users.

If you like net-surfing, Tech-TV features interesting sites including weird ones such as a website on bald people. Those who like playing computer games can get reviews on the newest releases and see excerpts from actual games. For show biz buffs, there are features on how technology is used in creating special effects for the big screen.

Blind Belinda

In her new film, "Kapitbahay," Belinda Bright plays a blind woman who's married to Albert Martinez, but has an affair with her neighbor (Joel Torre).

Her boring existence is energized by Joel's musical compositions, which he plays on his violin. It is Joel's music that "opens" her eyes to the world outside the confines of her home.

Joel says his bedroom scenes were much easier to do than those where he had to play the violin. He got tutored by violinist John Lesaca, but still had great difficulty pretending to play the musical instrument.

'Band Showdown' winners

The singing group Why Not made up of two sets of siblings won the grand prize of P15,000 at the grand finals of this year's "Band Showdown" held at Brick Road, East Wing Open Carpark, Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall. First runner-up honors went to "Laugh Like an Angel," while the third prize went to the group Mer de Nom.

Behind the success of Pops . . .

From page L1

children the breadwinners of the family. This way, the kids will not be burdened with responsibilities that they shouldn't have in the first place. It should be clear that they are in the biz because they enjoy performing, not because they have to support their family.

Ms Prats and her husband are into advertising, entertainment production and construction, so Camille and John get to keep their earnings. They are only required to pay for their own phone bills. But they are taught to spend their money wisely, that's why John and Camille are given weekly allowances.

Bernadette Sembrano isn't able to spend much time with her mother Elaine, who lives in Baguio. But the hardworking broadcast journalist knows Mommy Elaine watches her on TV.

Yes, Ms Sembrano is Bernadette's No. 1 fan. "She also keeps all of my clippings in an album," she beams. "She's so proud of me *na minsan nga nahihiya na ako*. My friends think she's great, *kaya* Mama Elaine *na rin ang tawag nila sa kanya*."

"With Mama, I have nothing to prove," she shares. "She loves me unconditionally and her patience is all-encompassing."

The compassion that Bernadette shows on "Wish Ko Lang" stems from her mother's innate kindness and concern for others.

When she becomes a mother herself, Bernadette wants to also make her kids her top priority. Ms Sembrano inspired her daughter to take up Business Administration in college. "*Mahilig kasi s'yang magbenta,* so *ako rin*," Bernadette explains, adding that she stumbled into broadcast journalism by accident.

Bernadette is looking forward to touring Europe with her mom. Trouble is, she's so busy with her TV chores, so when will she find the time?

DENNEHY (left) and Redgrave play James and Mary Tyrone in the affecting production directed by Robert Falls.
AP

Redgrave, Dennehy bring the staggeringly sad Tyrone family blazingly back to life

By Michael Kuchwara

NEW YORK—She's demented, deluded and caught in a dreamlike web of the past. He is big, blustery and alcoholic, a man mesmerized by his own importance. And we haven't even gotten to their two sons yet.

Revival

The staggeringly sad family drama that is Eugene O'Neill's "Long Day's Journey Into Night" more than gets its due in a blazing new Broadway revival that stars Brian Dennehy and Vanessa Redgrave in the towering roles of James and Mary Tyrone.

O'Neill's autobiographical play, which opened Tuesday at the Plymouth theater, is a classic for a lot of reasons, but three stand out in this affecting production directed by Robert Falls.

First, it's a work of rich, fully realized characters. O'Neill gives us a quartet of remarkably drawn people, who, by the time the evening is over, have been dissected, for better and worse, in their often demented glory. For the first two of the play's three acts, it's the mother, Mary, who dominates the action, particularly in Redgrave's extravagant, mesmerizing performance.

Mary Tyrone is a ghostlike creature. From the moment she appears on stage, an almost emaciated Redgrave plays her with a haunted intensity. Her tightly wrapped white hair coming apart, her matronly clothing a bit disheveled, the actress portrays the morphine-addled mother with a desperation that is unnerving to watch.

Unhappy home

At one point, Redgrave claws the dark, roughhewn walls of the unhappy home where "Long Day's Journey" takes place. At another, she mimes playing the piano, her now-gnarled hands attempting to recapture her long-ago days in a convent school before she met James Tyrone and was swept off her feet.

Second, "Long Day's Journey Into Night" celebrates a particular time and a specific place. That Connecticut summer cottage, circa 1912, is a testament to the success of James Tyrone, a drunken, penny-pinching actor who grew rich while playing the same role over and over again while neglecting the artistic side of his career.

The gloomy house, beautifully realized in designer Santo Loquasto's setting and lighted with remarkable shadows by Brian MacDevitt, anchors the play. There's talk of the summer heat and the rolling fog coming in off the water as well as the ever-present sound of a fog horn after the dense mist arrives.

Abundance

Third, there is the play's abundance of robust, theatrical language, dialogue that simply pours out of the characters. Dennehy rises to the great third-act monologue in which the expansive James Tyrone recalls his poverty-stricken childhood, a heartfelt recollection of the Irish immigrant experience.

Yet, everyone gets a moment center stage. Philip Seymour Hoffman, as the older, alcoholic brother Jamie, makes the most of his harrowing diatribe against Edmund, the likable sibling stricken with consumption, played by Robert Sean Leonard.

The remarkable Hoffman puts a particularly modern spin on Jamie, negotiating a fine line between the love and hate he feels for his younger brother. It's a walk that everyone in the play takes at one time or another with each other, and they all do it superbly.

"Long Day's Journey Into Night" is a marathon, lasting a bit over four hours. But it's one family battle you are unlikely to forget. AP

Caring for the air we breathe

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

DEAR Clara,

It was the most tiring trip I've ever had to take—but I knew I had to be there. I refer to the Konsyerto para sa Kalikasan recently held at the Lucena Convention Center to coincide with World Earth Day. I had to be there, not only because of Mang Ado (Escudero) who invited me to help host the event, but also because I wanted to do something concrete for Mother Earth.

Anxiety

We traveled more than five hours to get to Lucena. But the tiredness and anxiety evaporated when we got there. We were made to feel very welcome by Mang Ado, his lovely sister Rosalie and their family, and also by Gov. Willie Enverga and his charming wife, who feted us with a fiesta dinner at the governor's mansion. And the people of Quezon embraced us with their warmth and hospitality.

Good cause

But more than that, I sensed that our going there was for a good cause—that the difficulties we encountered were worth it because we were doing something beyond ourselves.

You see, Clara, the concert was also a crusade—a way of demonstrating the collective protest of the people of Quezon and Laguna against the horrific plan of garbage czar Bayani Fernando to dump in their midst tons and tons of Metro Manila's waste.

Quezon and Laguna conjure up images of unpolluted towns, rivers thriving with abundant fish, and a peaceful quality of life. But all this will soon be gone if Fernando's plan is allowed to come to pass.

Cultural treasure

Mang Ado's family is very concerned. If the dumpsite is established, they will have to close down Villa Escudero. This will mean the end not only of a cultural treasure and tourist's paradise but also of the livelihood of some 1,000 families who directly and indirectly get the food on their table from working at Villa Escudero.

Worse, Quezon and Laguna as we now know them shall cease to be. As Mang Ado explains, "The landscape will change. It is unavoidable. With garbage shall come disease and privation."

This message was delivered loud and clear during the concert, which was a rousing success. The artists included Aiza Seguerra, Ricky Davao, Gary Estrada, John Lloyd Cruz, Gary Granada, Joey Ayala, Robert Natividad, Banyuhay, Danny Dolor and the timeless Tribung Pinoy. The fiery Armida Siguion-Reyna was there, and the crowd cheered her as she lashed out against Fernando's plan.

Future

In the wee hours, as we drove back to Manila, I tried to doze off but couldn't. I was thinking about you, Clara—as well as all the children in the world. I was thinking about your future—how we are trying very hard to build it against the backdrop of desolate, seemingly hopeless reality.

INDAY, right, with Ricky Davao and Armida Siguion-Reyna.

Then, my thoughts really soared. I began to think how parents toil long and hard to give the best to their children and secure the future for them. This they do by investing in all kinds of educational and insurance plans.

But what do parents do to protect the physical environment of their children? What can they do to make sure that the world they bequeath to them will still be a beautiful place to live in? The time to act is *now*.

Aiko on 'Inday, Heart to Heart'

Tomorrow, Aiko Melendez sizzles in "Inday, Heart to Heart" (10:30-11:30 a.m., GMA-7) as she reveals the pains and joys of being her family's breadwinner, her life as a separated woman and single mother, her career as an actress and public servant. And, yes, she has already forgiven Jomari Yllana for his infidelity.

We'd like to thank our viewers for the heartening success of "Inday, Heart to Heart." And also our sponsors: San Miguel Corp. (Coca Cola, Royal Tru Orange, Sprite, Lift and Viva Mineral Water), Samsung, Tender Bob's Steaks, Potion Planet, Home & Lifestyle, American Blues, Yamaha, Celine and the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

AIZA Seguerra sings for the environment.

ISSUES IN ENTERTAINMENT

Film sleaze pollutes TV screens as well

By Nestor U. Torre

WHEN *pito-pito* sex flicks began to take over the local movie industry some years ago, we were alarmed. Was this going to be a repeat of the dismal *bomba* period in Filipino moviemaking in the late '60s and early '70s?

Terrible prospect

That was a terrible prospect because, when *bomba* movies flooded our screens with soft and even hard porn, legit performers took a long leave of absence, and cheap and tawdry sex stars ran riot with their sleazy performances.

It took the local movie industry years before it got its bearings back, and respectable and respected stars and filmmakers only regained their rightful status of preeminence in the '80s and the early '90s.

Alas, history repeats itself with nasty certainty for people who are too dense or avaricious to learn from it, so those sleazy times are upon us again. Some 60 percent of the Filipino film industry's current output is sex-based, sex-obsessed and sex-crazed, and some of the country's esteemed filmmakers have had to "go sexy" to keep their careers afloat.

Moral pollution

The result is a pervasive moral pollution that has sapped both the industry's creative energy and corroded the country's ethical framework. Young people are particularly vulnerable to this sleazy onslaught, becoming jaded and cynical much sooner than they used to.

As if that wasn't bad enough, a new development has compounded the negative effects of this moral pollution. As late as last year, sex flicks and their randy performers were pretty much restricted to moviehouses showing For Adults Only movies, where viewing by minors could be restricted.

Shock value

Starting this year, however, local television channels have discovered the ratings and shock value of featuring sexy stars on their many shows, and TV, which should have For General Patronage or at worst Parental Guidance Recommended programming, now offers increasingly For Adults Only material.

This comes in the form of sexy dancers on noontime shows, "hot" interviews, shamelessly graphic remarks, mean-minded innuendo, lewd "blind" items, malicious gossip, vicious character assassination, concocted shouting matches and other conflicts between foul-mouthed combatants—etc.!

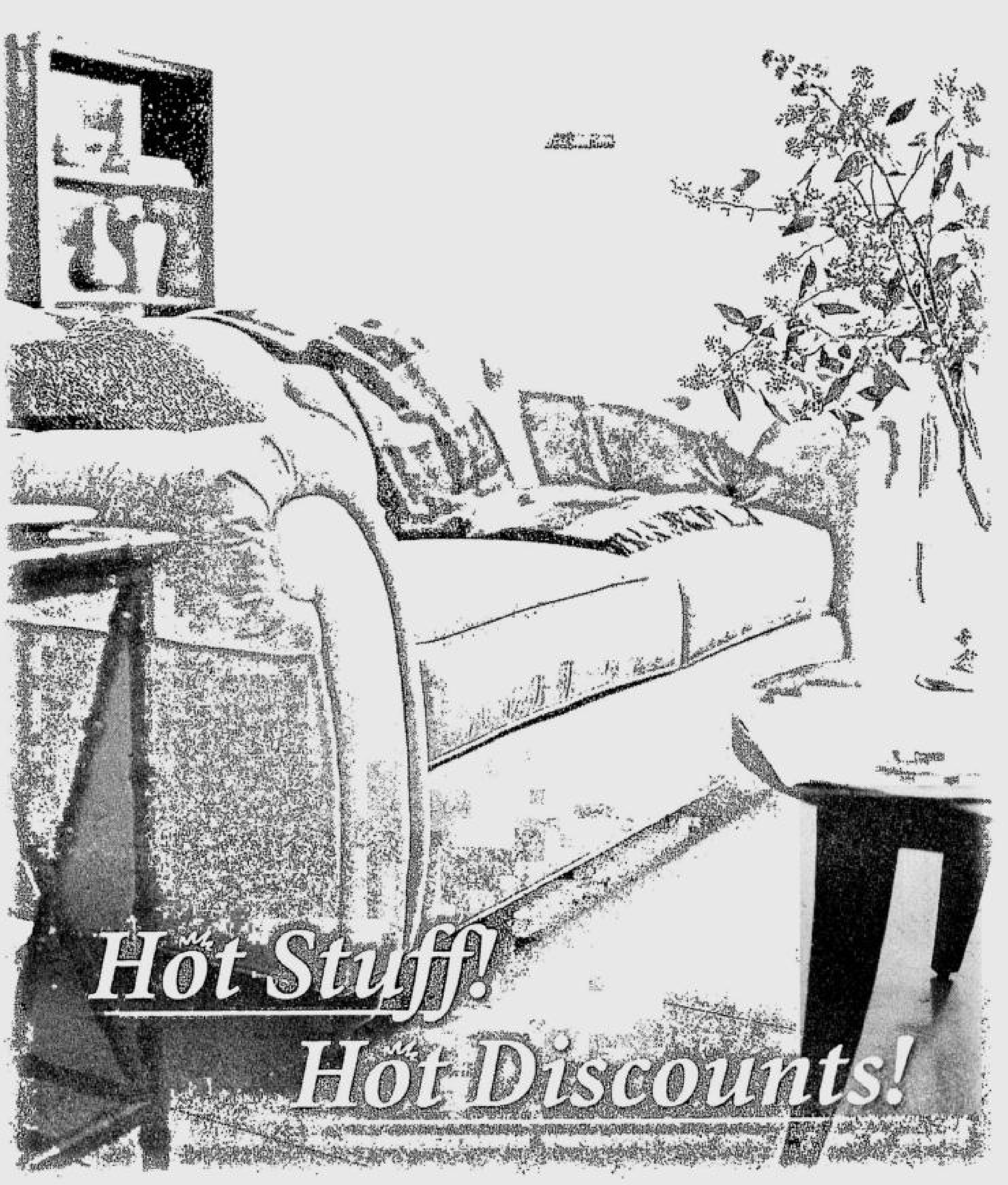
"UHAW," AN EARLY SEX FLICK. History repeats itself.

More vulnerable than ever

Now, the country's youth are more vulnerable than ever, since TV is available at home 24 hours a day, and so-called "parental guidance" is sometimes nonexistent. But a lot our TV people care, and even the MTRCB, the KBP and other watchdog organizations are generally silent on this scandalous pollution of our TV screens.

Thus, concerned viewers have to use their collective power to let TV-film people know that they have gone too far in their relentless quest for top ratings and box-office hits. We should complain whenever we feel offended by the "entertainment" we get, or when we see that our children are being negatively affected by the pollution they're exposed to, especially on the small screen.

To do nothing would be like giving irresponsible TV-film people complete leave to do their worst—and, make no mistake about it, they will!



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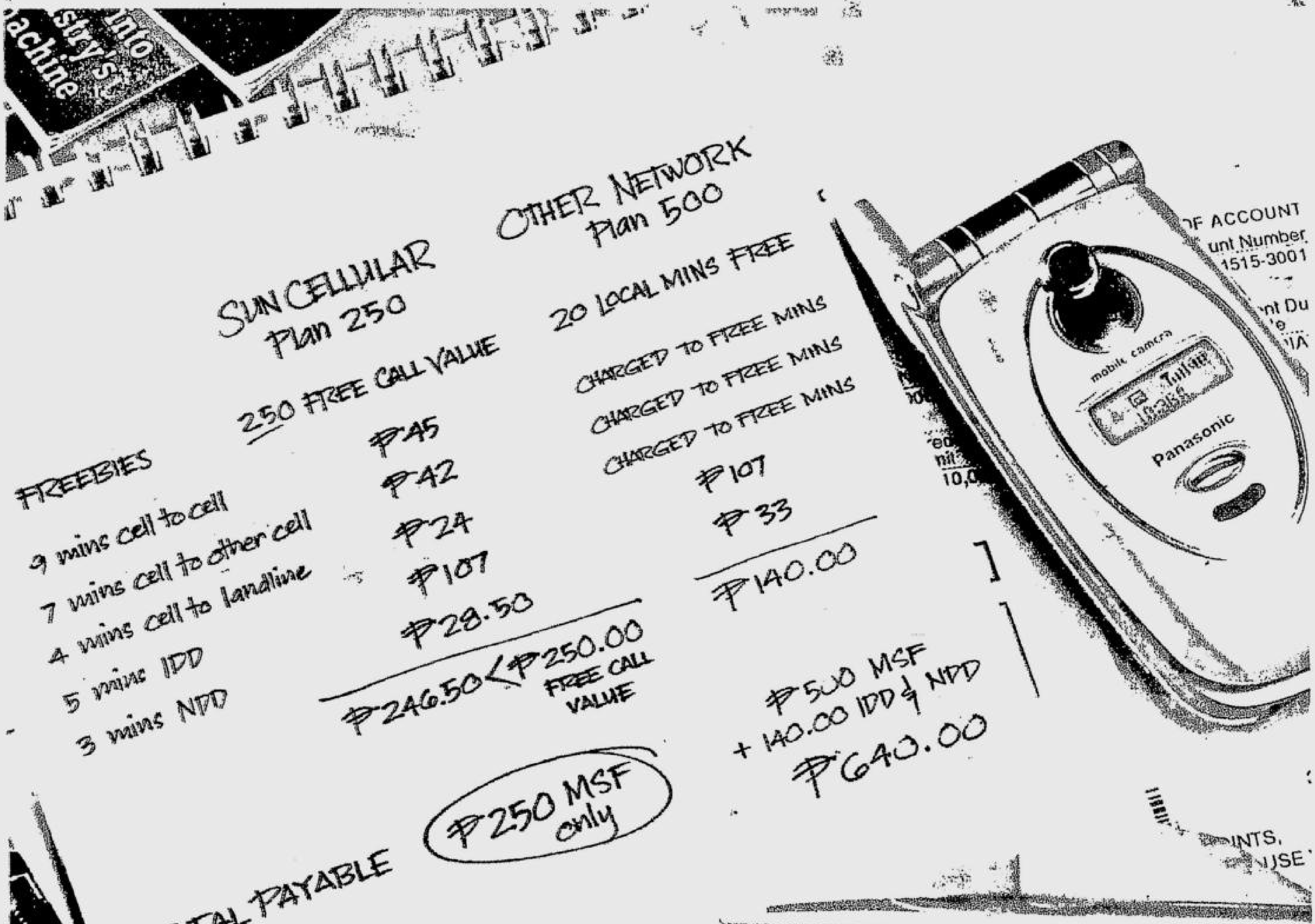

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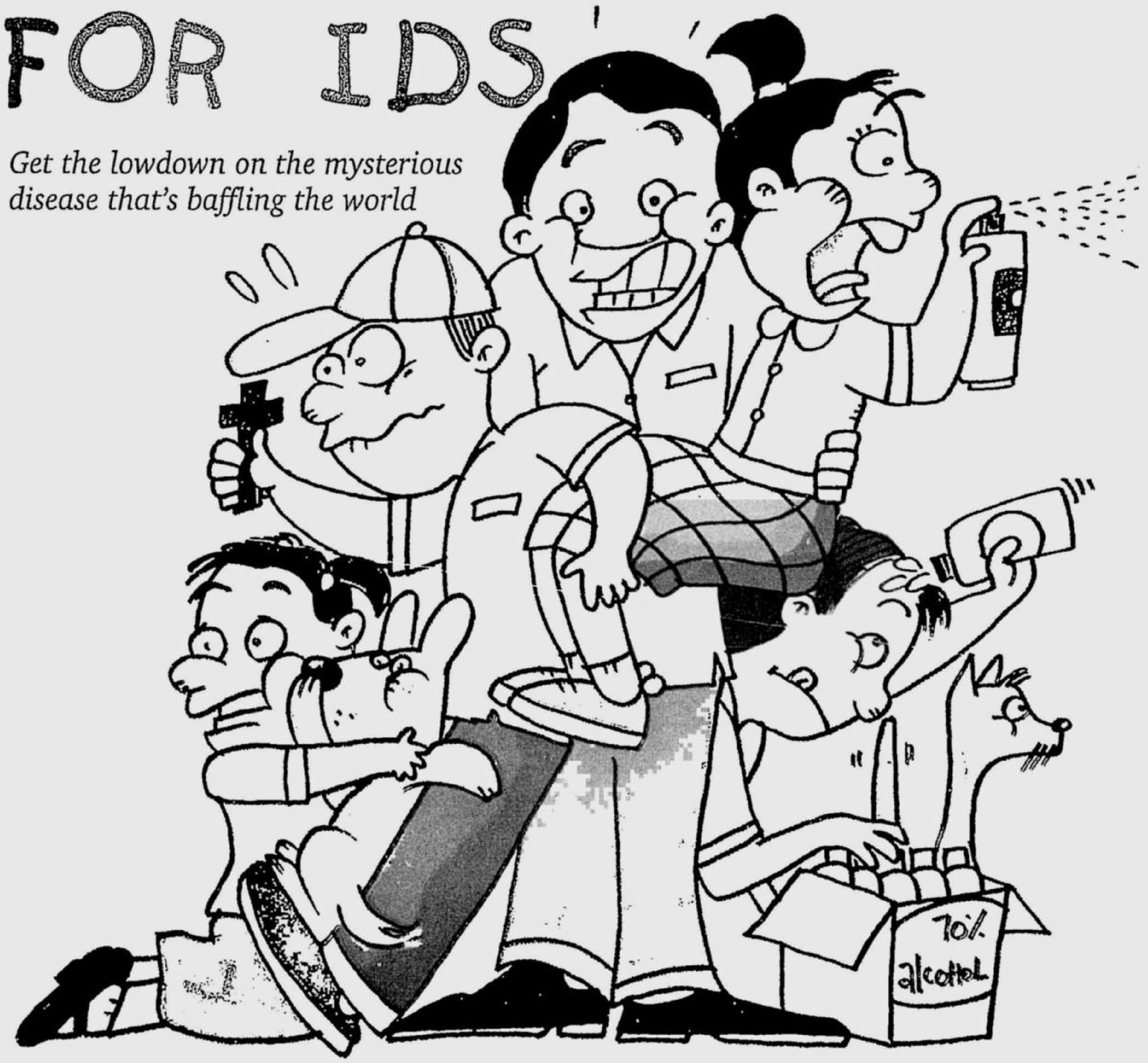
SARS FAQ

FOR IDS

Get the lowdown on the mysterious disease that's baffling the world



By Eline Santos

HEY KIDS! Suddenly those teeny-weeny microbes that you used to ignore are now ominously real. They're everywhere: floating in the air, chilling on doorknobs, getting free rides via sneezes and coughs. But you can fight both the heebie-jeebies and SARS with some know-how!

WHAT IS SARS? You probably know by now that it is Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome.

- It's a new disease that acts like an old one. If you've ever had flu, well, that's what it feels like. You get a high fever, your body feels really bad and you get a headache.
- When it gets worse, the flu symptoms become pneumonia symptoms. Pneumonia is when your lungs get infected by a virus. So this is like a cold gone really, really bad.
- When someone gets SARS, they feel like they have pneumonia or the flu. But SARS is more dangerous because doctors and scientists know little about it or how it is cured.
- SARS symptoms include a fever greater than 38.0°C, headache, an overall feeling of discomfort, and body aches. If you have these symptoms, see a doctor.
- After 2 to 7 days, SARS patients may develop a dry cough and have trouble breathing.

HOW DOES THIS MEAN VIRUS TRAVEL?

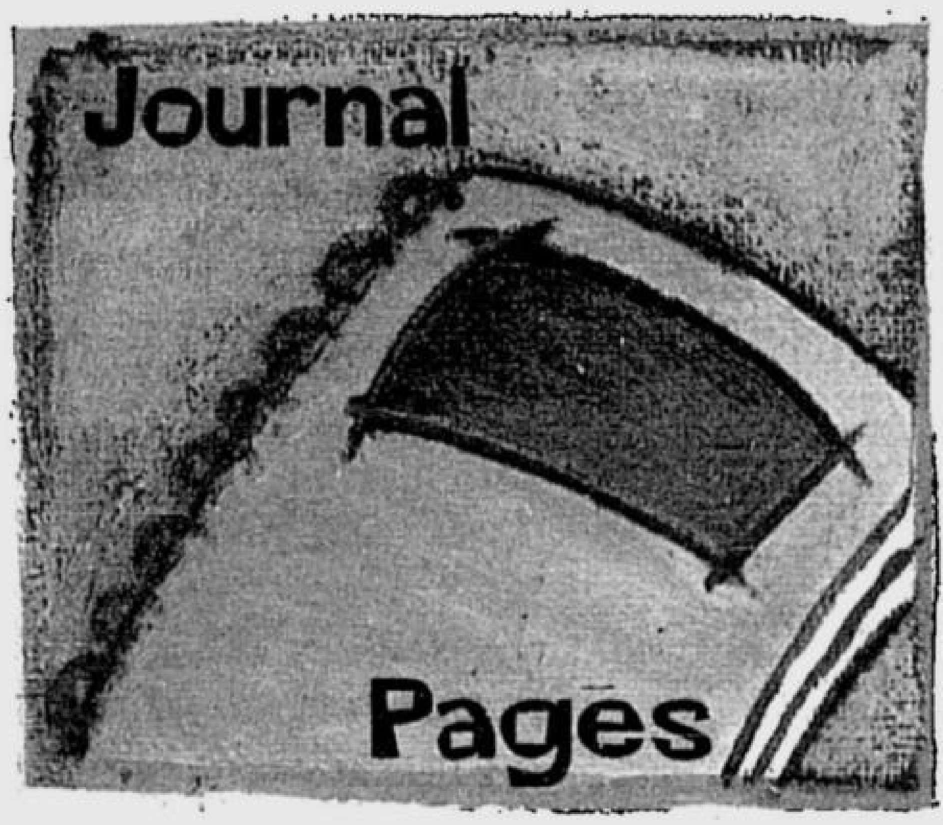
- Watch out when someone near you coughs or sneezes. The SARS virus hitches a ride on little saliva droplets that burst out from the mouth.
- We also checked the website of the World Health Organization (www.who.org) and they say that the virus can also stay alive for three days in (**Gross Alert!**) poo and urine. Aaaack!

OKAY, NOW YOU'RE SCARING ME. WHAT SHOULD A KID LIKE ME DO TO AVOID SARS?

- Simply keep your hands clean. You can use soap and water or alcohol-based hand-rubs with 70% concentration.

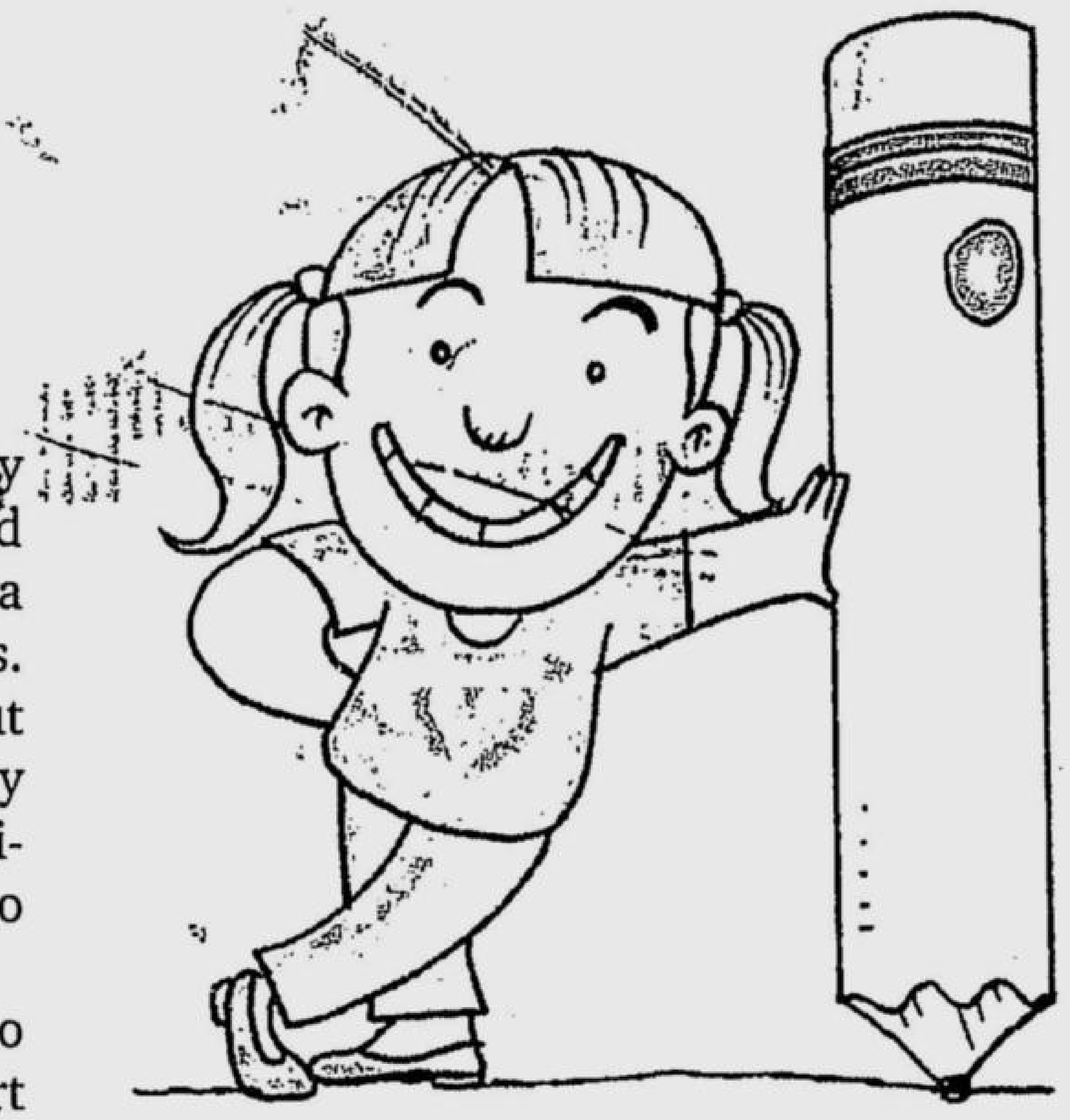
SARS/ p. 5

KEEP MYSELF HEALTHY AND CLEAN



The Author Inside Francesca

By Francesca Boughton
Grade 5, International School Manila



WHEN I write, I feel that I am talking to my best friend. I write what my heart desires and I write as if in a dream. Sometimes, I get a writer's block, but that's normal for all writers. My work may not be very good at times, but at others, my imagination just flows out of my head and onto my paper. The paper is like a diary, just there to keep whatever you have to say.

There are times when I don't know what to write, then I think of things deep in my heart and I just start to write smoothly. My head is full of things I don't know. I have all my dreams, memories and ideas there; yet, I can't think of them.

I write what I get from out of the deep, in my heart. The things I try to write are from within. When I have friends in a bad situation, I speak words of wisdom to them or their enemy. To tell the truth, sometimes I don't really want to write, but at other times, I want to tell my notebook everything inside my soul.

Francesca, 11, was born in Hong Kong in 1992 and raised there and in the Philippines. She has been writing for 3 years now and loves writing poetry. When she grows up, she wishes to be a children's author or a journalist. She likes to read, write, watch TV, use the computer, collect bouncy balls, sing, play tennis, and hang out with friends.

Sound Familiar ?

Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

Straight from JI Readers

You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!

If you wanna write for JI...

DEAR Junior Inquirer,

Hi! My name is Joana Casucian, a student from Malate Catholic School. My friends and I are fond of reading the JUNIOR INQUIRER. For us it's 100% cool.

My friends and I really love this part of the Inquirer and we're wondering if it is possible for us to be contributors of JI? And if it is, how and what are we supposed to do to be one?

We are serious and we promise to do our best if we are accepted. I have two personal reasons: first, I want to realize my dream... and second, I want to make my parents happy and proud of me. I hope you can reply to us soon.—**JOANA CAMILLE CASUCIAN**, miakacamille_rinoa@yahoo.com

Hey Joana,

Anyone can contribute to JUNIOR INQUIRER. *Just send* ***your essays, short stories, poetry or even illustrations*** *to our snail mail address or to ji@inquirer.com.ph. Don't forget to send us your* ***contact details*** *and a one-paragraph* ***biographical note****. We get lots of contributions though and of course, we pick the most well-written, imaginative and creative ones. If you don't get printed on your first try, don't lose heart. Send us more stuff. Every other year, we also announce an exam for our* ***JI school correspondents****. There may be one this year, but we aren't sure yet. We'll announce the exam when we're ready. Good luck and greet your moms on Mother's Day!—The Editor*

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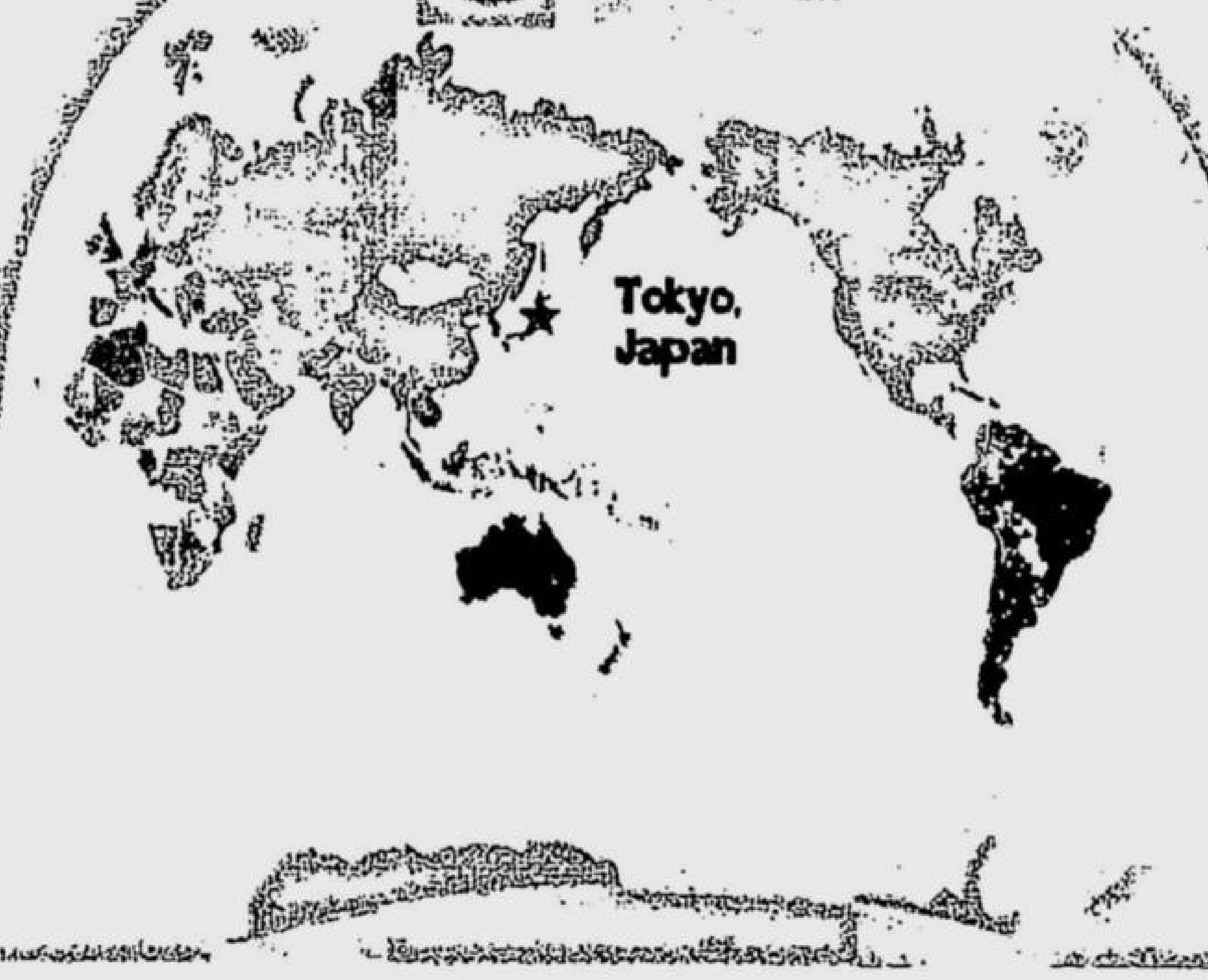
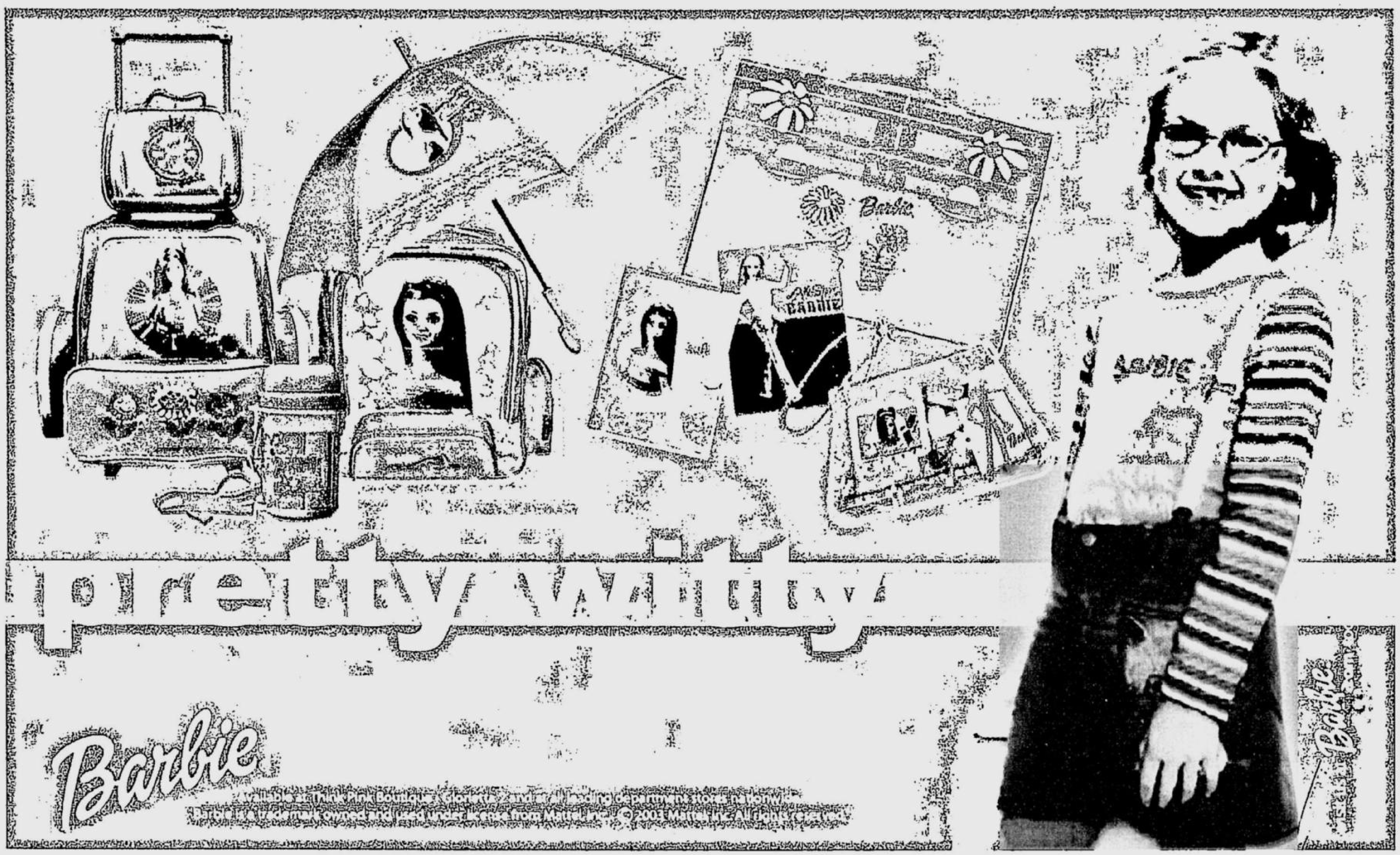
World Scope



Ig Nobel Prize '02

Dr. 'Bowlingual'

MASAHIKO Kajita, 41, shows off the 2002 Ig Nobel Peace Prize© award from a US-based science humor magazine along with his invention of the smash hit dog-language electronic interpreter 'Bowlingual.' **Kajita-san is known as the Doctor Dolittle of Japan's number two toymaker, Takara. He developed the 120-USD gadget Bowlingual, which has sold 300,000 units in its first six months on the shelf. The gadget will be sold in the US starting August.** ***AFP***



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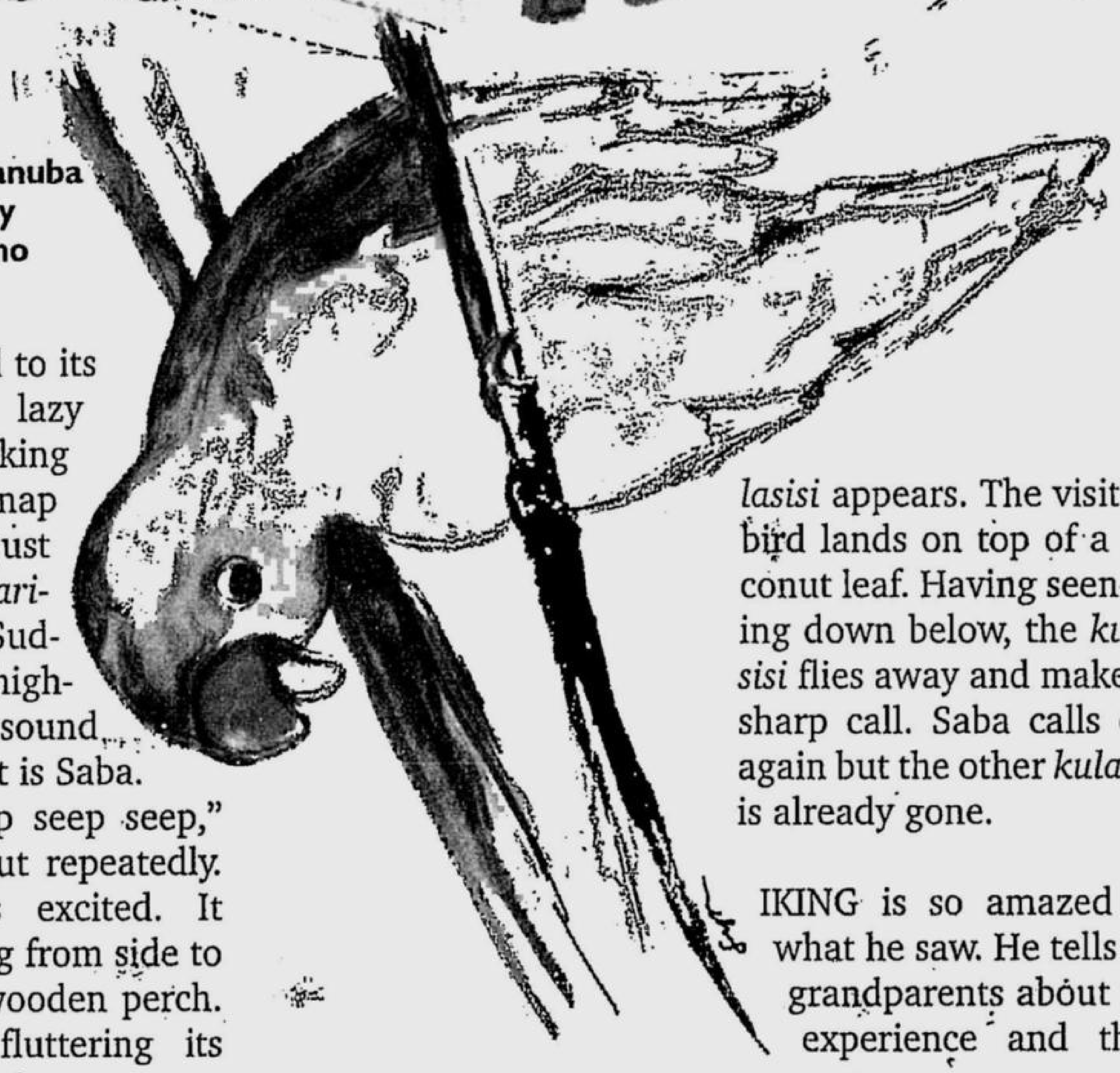
Saba the umop apisdn

(UPSIDE DOWN)

Parakeet

FOR or By KIDS

**Story by
Michael A. Manuba
Illustrations by
Lyra Garcellano**



JUST outside a *sari-sari* store, there hangs a bamboo cage with a curious bird inside. The bird is a *kulasisi*, a kind of parakeet with brilliant green, red and blue feathers. A little boy takes care of this bird. His name is Iking. His grandparents own the store and the little house behind it. Iking is staying with them for a month. It is summer vacation.

Iking likes the bird very much. His grandparents gave it to him as a welcoming gift. The bird also has a curious habit of sleeping and resting upside down. It hangs itself like the small *kabag* bats that roost under the leaves of the coconut tree beside the *sari-sari* store.

EVERY morning, Iking would give the bird a *saba* banana. The next morning, nothing would be left but the peel.

"I think I should give you a name," Iking says softly to the parakeet one sunny morning. "Saba," he whispers as he peeled one side of the banana. "That's right! I will call you Saba since you love to eat *saba* so much," Iking exclaims.

Days went by, and the bird got used to its name. One lazy afternoon, Iking is taking a nap on a bench just outside the *sari-sari* store. Suddenly, a high-pitched sound wakes him. It is Saba.

"Seep seep seep seep," Saba calls out repeatedly. Saba seems excited. It keeps moving from side to side on its wooden perch. It is also fluttering its wings inside the cage.

"What is the matter?," Iking asks Saba as if it would answer him back.

Saba continues to call out, "Seep seep seep seep."

Then the same call is heard from somewhere above them. The sound comes from the leaves of the coconut tree beside the *sari-sari* store.

Iking looks up. He sees the *kabag* bats becoming noisy. They have been disturbed from their sleep. Saba calls out again when all of a sudden another *kulasisi* appears. The visiting bird lands on top of a coconut leaf. Having seen Iking down below, the *kulasisi* flies away and makes a sharp call. Saba calls out again but the other *kulasisi* is already gone.

IKING is so amazed by what he saw. He tells his grandparents about the experience and they, too, are amused by his story. Later that night, Iking can not sleep. He wonders if the *kulasisi* would ever come back.

He wakes early the following morning. Like any day, he takes the bamboo cage out of the *sari-sari* store and hangs it on a pole. Then he gets his pet a banana.

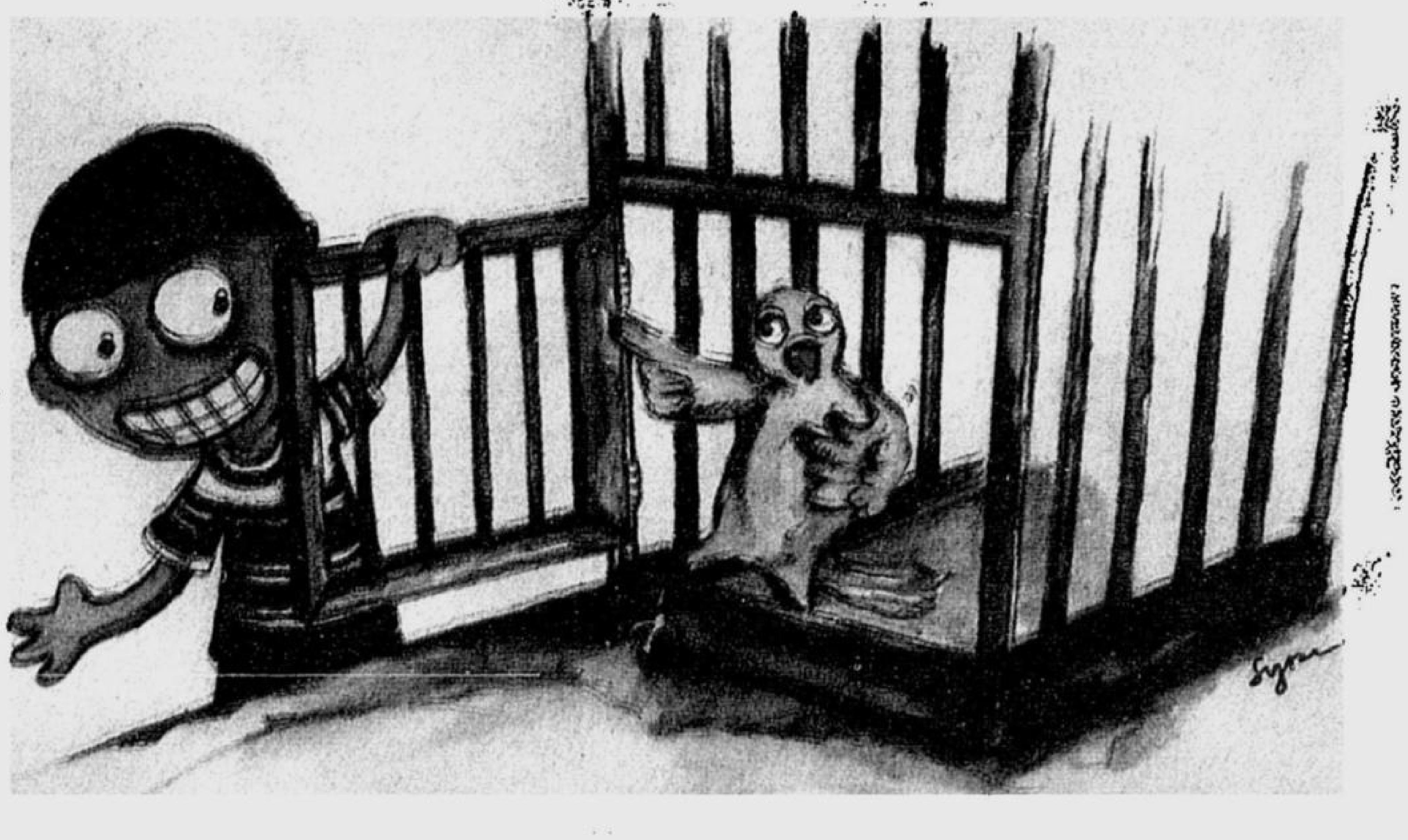
When Iking is about to come out, Saba makes a sharp call again. Another such call is heard.

"It must be the *kulasisi* I saw yesterday," thought Iking.

He stops and peeps out the door. The other *kulasisi* is there but it is hanging upside down from the tree. Saba seems very excited.

While trying to be quiet, Iking suddenly feels he is going to sneeze. He does and the other *kulasisi* flies away.

Saba/ p. 6



SARS FAQ for Kids

(from page 1)

- If you suspect your hands are not clean, avoid touching your mouth, nose and eyes. Never mind if your **(Gross Alert!)** nose cookies are accumulating.
- Cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze. This basic courtesy is even more important now that people are worried about SARS.

DO I NEED TO WEAR A MASK?

- If your mom insists, then wear a mask. But your parents need to know that not all masks are meant to be worn by kids.
- Filipino-American lung specialist Anna York Bondoc says, "respirator masks should not be used by kids because they were originally designed for industrial use."

This might mean that kids will have trouble breathing when using respirator masks.

- Also, the World Health Organization has not yet advised the general public to wear masks. Only patients, doctors, nurses and other health workers have been advised to wear masks.

So there you have it kids! Stay away from snotty, sneezing people and keep yourself healthy and clean, okay?

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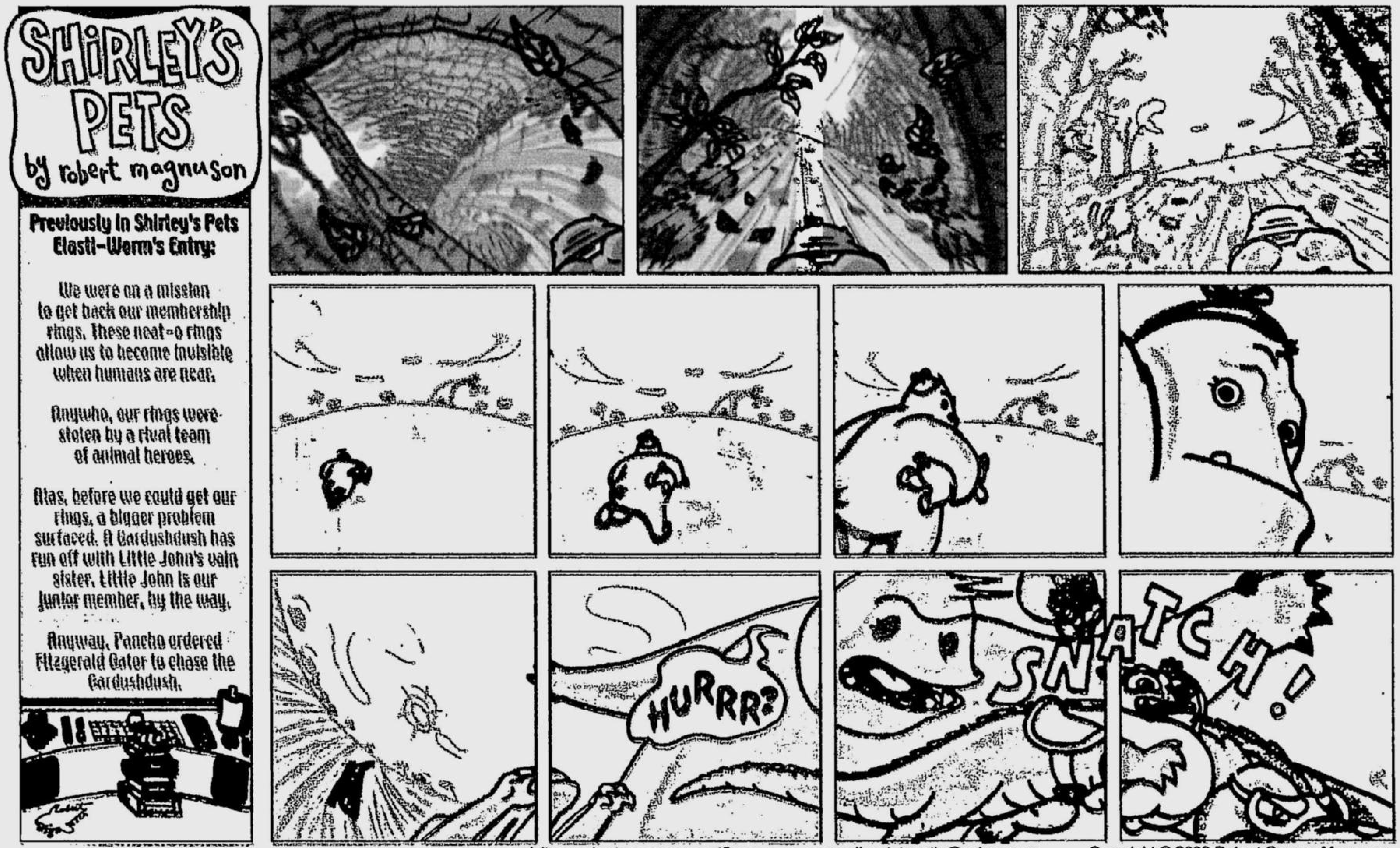


SHIRLEY'S PETS

by robert magnuson

Previously in Shirley's Pets Elasti-Worm's Entry:

We were on a mission to get back our membership rings. These neat-o rings allow us to become invisible when humans are near.

Anywho, our rings were stolen by a rival team of animal heroes.

Alas, before we could get our rings, a bigger problem surfaced. A Gardushdush has run off with Little John's vain sister. Little John is our junior member, by the way.

Anyway, Pancho ordered Fitzgerald Gator to chase the Gardushdush.

visit us: robertmagnuson.port5.com or email: seintmartin@yahoo.com Copyright © 2003 Robert Gunnar Magnuson

Saba the Upside Down Parakeet

(from page 4)

THE other bird continued to visit Saba every day. Each time, Saba would get so lively. Each time, the other *kulasisi* would fly away as it sees Iking.

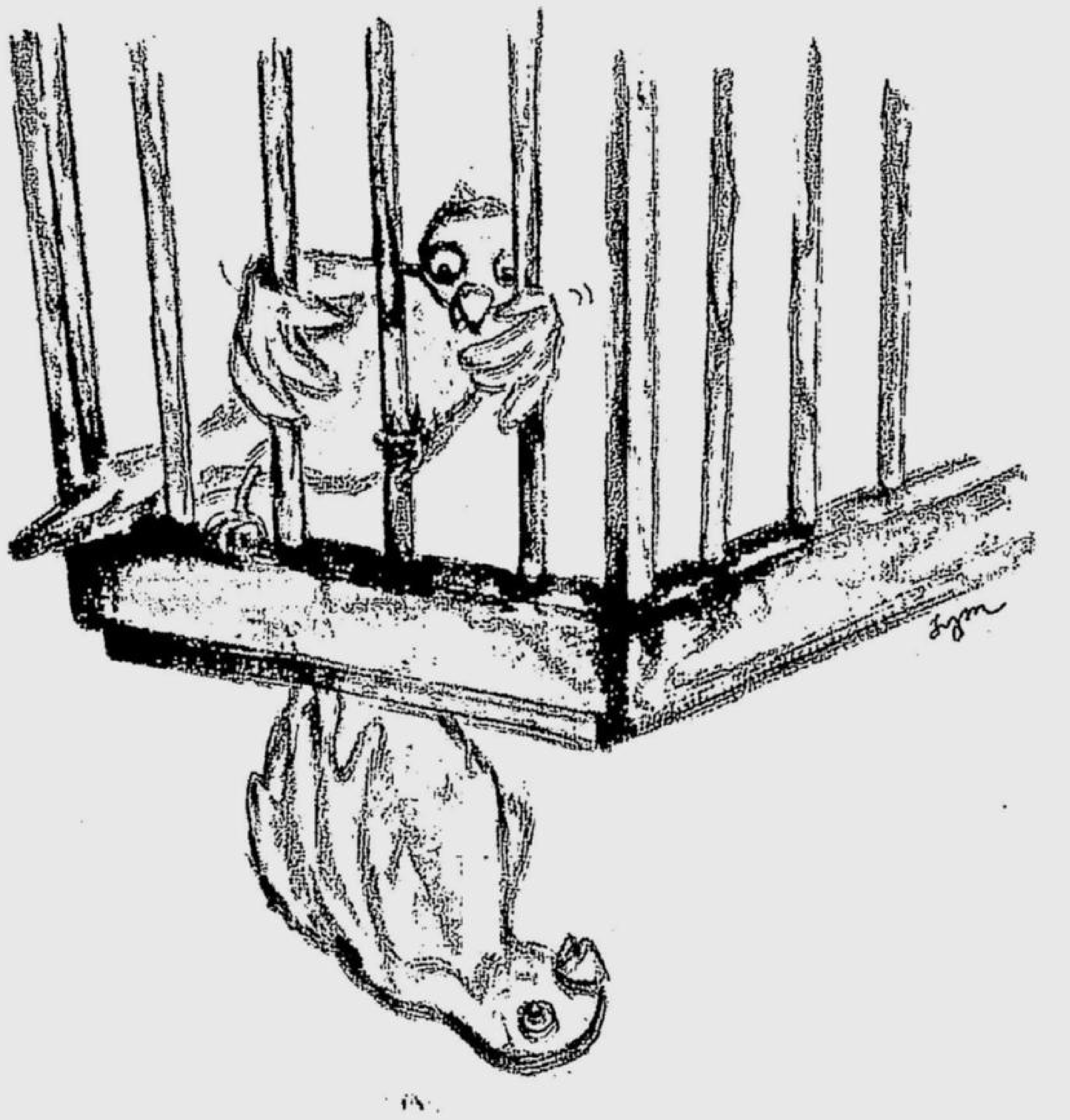
"There are no birds like Saba at home," Iking says to his grandparents. His vacation is almost over. His father would fetch him soon. "I must set Saba free," he says. His grandparents agree.

The following morning, Iking wakes early to release Saba from its cage.

"I will miss you," Iking whispers. He opens the cage door wide to let Saba out. Saba does not fly out at once. Then the other *kulasisi* begins calling out, "Seep seep seep."

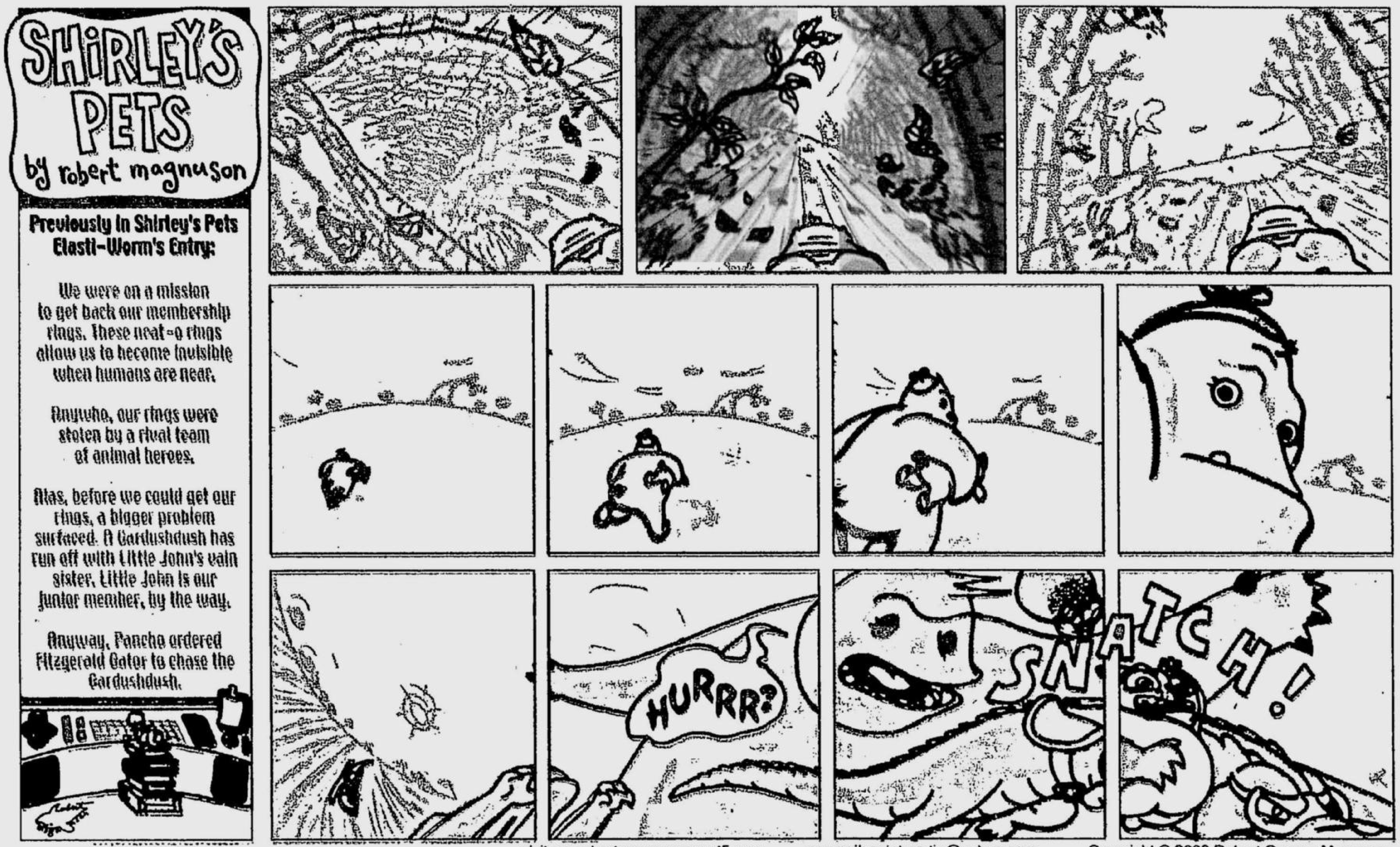
It had been perching on top of the coconut leaf. It is as if it is waiting to fetch Saba.

Saba responds with delight and flies to the direction of the other *kulasisi*. They exchange affectionate whistles for a while on top of the coconut tree. Then the two birds fly together to the direction of the rising sun. At last, Saba the upside down parakeet is free.



***Michael**, 30, is a graduate student at the University of the Philippines in Los Baños, Laguna. He is taking up Wildlife Studies.*

***Lyra** recently illustrated a children's book about cooties for UNICEF called "May Gumagapang sa Ulo ni Tina." Check it out in bookstores.*



SHIRLEY'S PETS
by robert magnuson
HURRR?
SNATCH!

Previously in Shirley's Pets
Elasti-Worm's Entry:

We were on a mission to get back our membership rings. These neat-o rings allow us to become invisible when humans are near.

Anywho, our rings were stolen by a rival team of animal heroes.

Alas, before we could get our rings, a bigger problem surfaced. A Gardushdush has run off with Little John's vain sister. Little John is our junior member, by the way.

Anyway, Pancho ordered Fitzgerald Gator to chase the Gardushdush.

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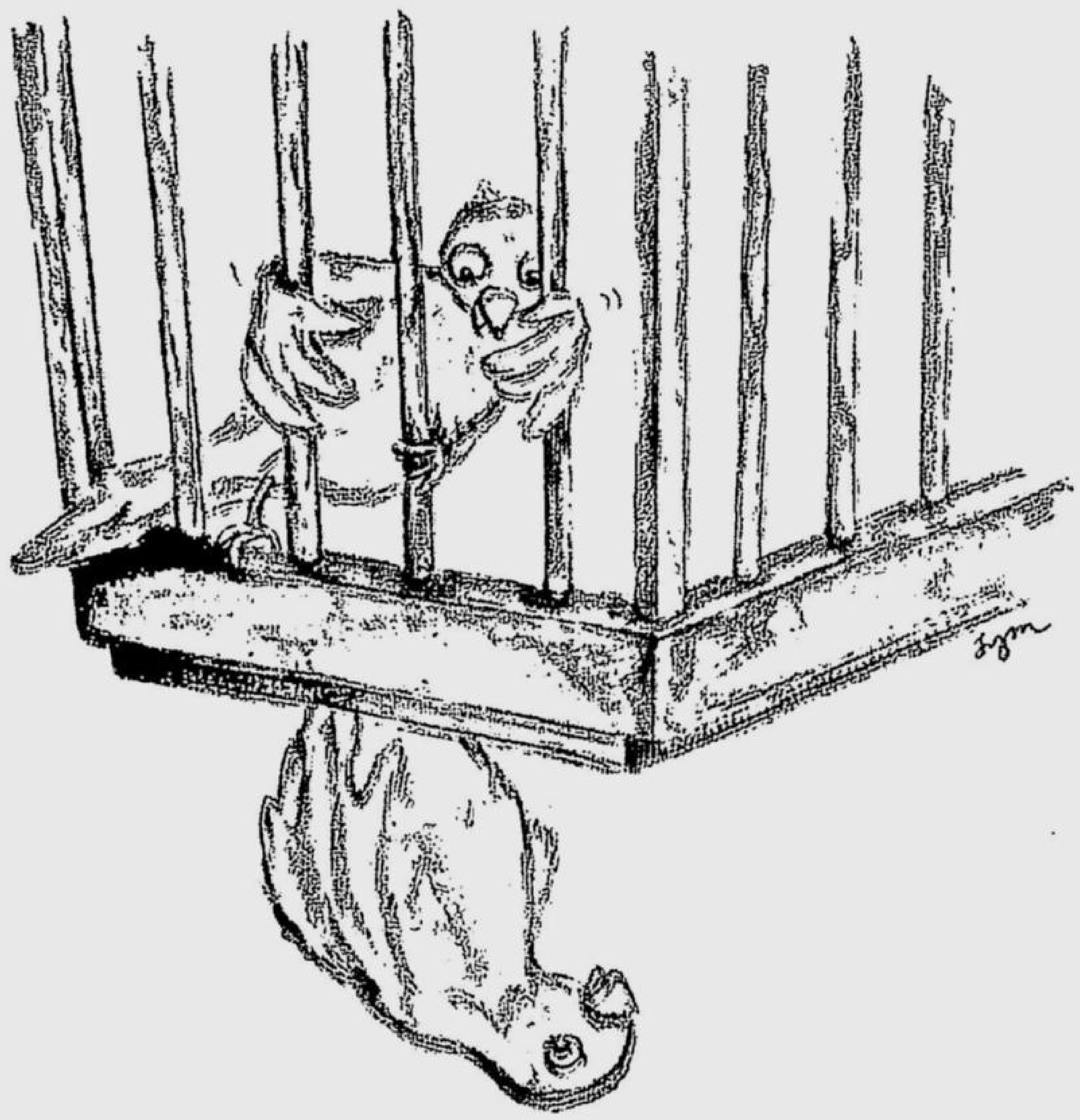

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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

THE LUNCH BOX

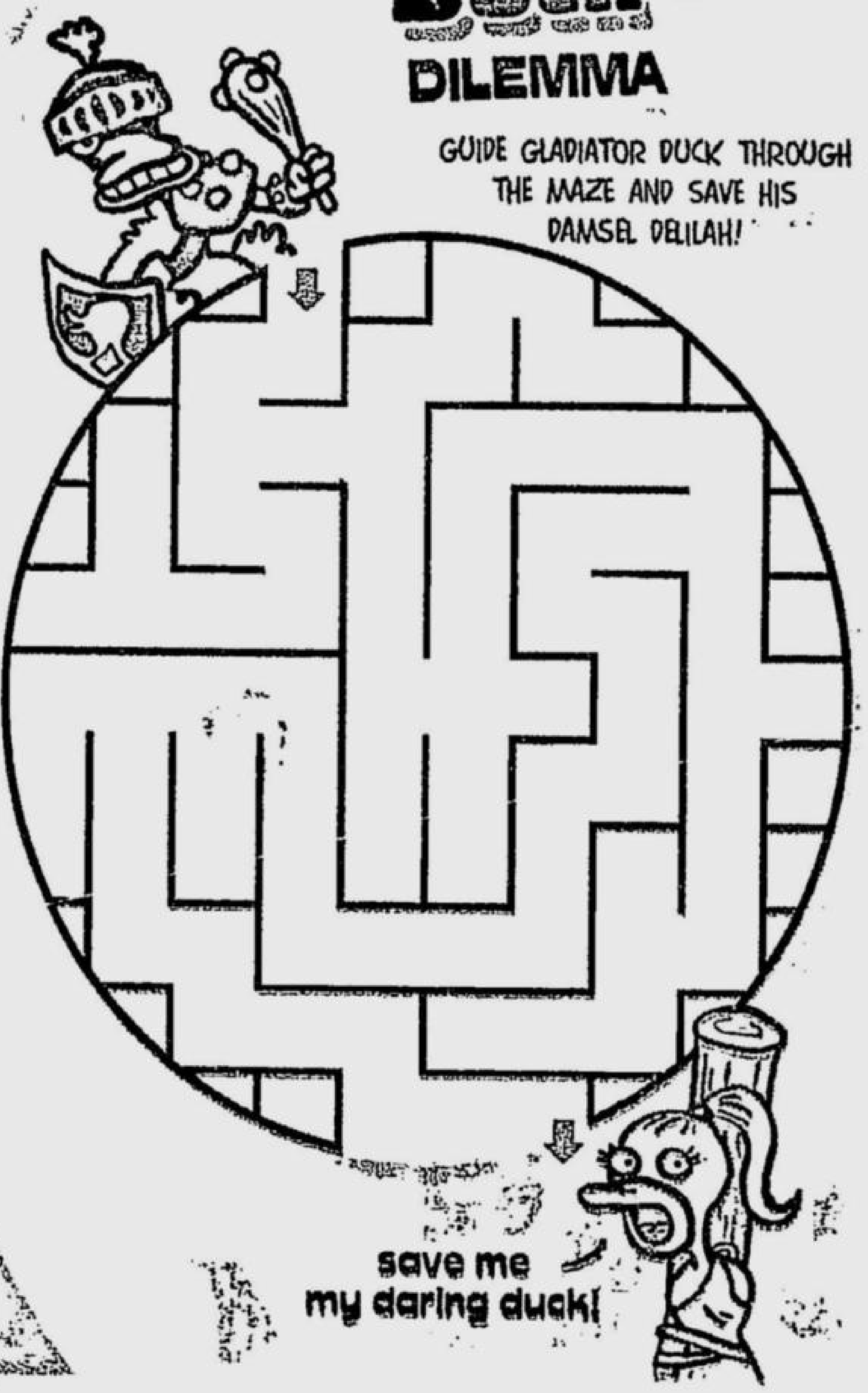
by Katrina B. Villa

IS THERE AN OCEAN INSIDE A CONCH SHELL?

No, an ocean would be very hard to fit in one shell! What you hear are the sounds from the air around you, as the shell's shape acts as an echo chamber, modifying the sounds around you and making it seem like the roar of ocean waves.

GLADIATOR DUCK's DILEMMA

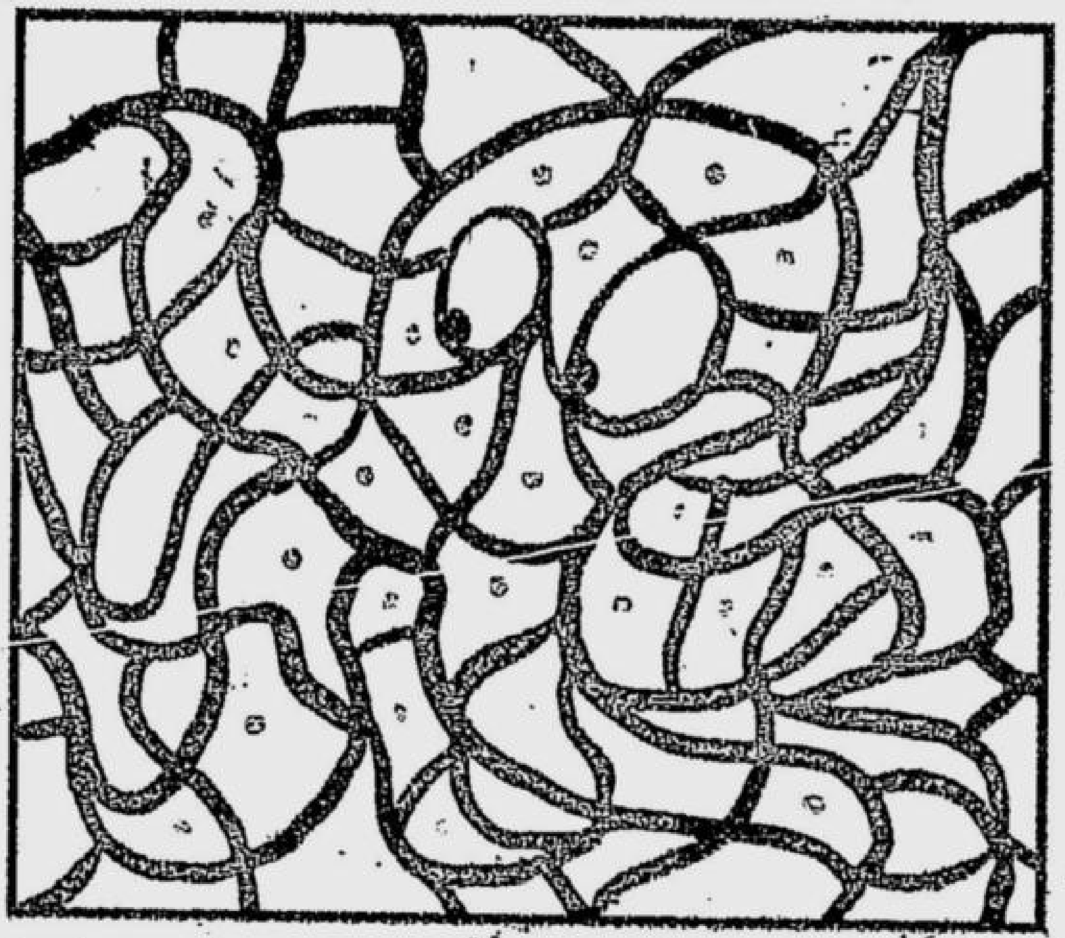
GUIDE GLADIATOR DUCK THROUGH THE MAZE AND SAVE HIS DAMSEL DELILAH!


save me
my daring duck!

POETIC PATTY UNDER THE SEA

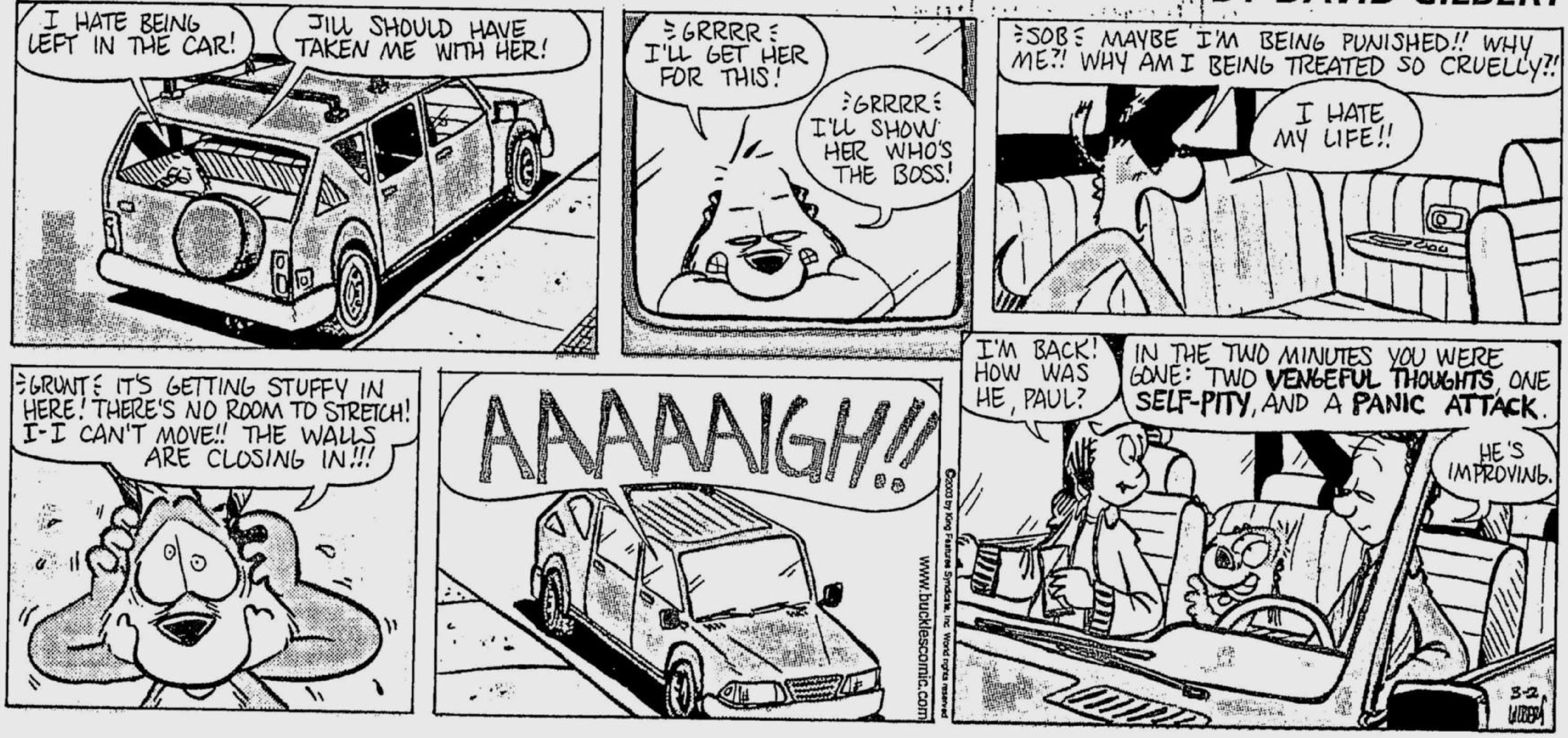
Snorkeling in the sea is fun!
You'll find some creatures, like this one.
How funny it looks! Look at it go!
How pretty this world is down below!

(Find out what Patty saw by coloring the spaces with the orange dots)



BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT


I HATE BEING LEFT IN THE CAR!
JILL SHOULD HAVE TAKEN ME WITH HER!
⁝GRRRR⁝ I'LL GET HER FOR THIS!
⁝GRRRR⁝ I'LL SHOW HER WHO'S THE BOSS!
⁝SOB⁝ MAYBE I'M BEING PUNISHED!! WHY ME?! WHY AM I BEING TREATED SO CRUELLY?!
I HATE MY LIFE!!
⁝GRUNT⁝ IT'S GETTING STUFFY IN HERE! THERE'S NO ROOM TO STRETCH! I-I CAN'T MOVE!! THE WALLS ARE CLOSING IN!!!
AAAAAIGH!!
I'M BACK! HOW WAS HE, PAUL?
IN THE TWO MINUTES YOU WERE GONE: TWO VENGEFUL THOUGHTS, ONE SELF-PITY, AND A PANIC ATTACK.
HE'S IMPROVING.
3-2

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OUT THERE

By Christine A. Paita

Got something for Out There? Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4794,and our e-mail address is pr_junior_inquirer@inquirer.com.ph. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

Workshops

PUPPET THEATER. Join Young Minds' **Puppet Theater workshop** from May 12-15 at the Alabang Town Center Store. Kids can write their own scripts, make the puppets and stage a performance at the end of the workshop. For more info, please call 892-3210.

POSITIVE ART. Christ the King Parish and Positivism Art Gallery invites kids ages 3-12 to join its **art workshop**, every Tuesday and Thursday starting May 13 from 3-5 p.m. Workshop venue is the Formation Center, Christ the King Parish, Greenmeadows, Quezon City. For inquiries, please call 899-6358 or 0917-9726223.

LEARN ANIMATION. Kids ages 7-11 may join Faber-Castell's free workshop on **animation and imagination** in SM Supermalls. Check out the following schedule of workshops: May 15-17, SM Southmall Activity Center, Las Piñas City; May 20 at SM Southmall Storyland; May 22-24, SM Fairview Activity Center; May 27 at SM Fairview Storyland; and May 29-31, SM Pampanga Activity Center. For more info, call 361-7391 to 92.

LET'S DANCE! Dansa Studio still accepts enrollees for its **3rd Summer Dance Workshop** "Dance to the Limit!" Classes include **jazz, ballet, streetdance, breakdance, ballroom/basic dancesport, aerostretch and aerodance**. For more info, call 436-6175, 0917-9868822, or 0919-2597323. Visit the studio at the 4th Floor, Manna II Bldg., 33 V. Luna Road, Quezon City.

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